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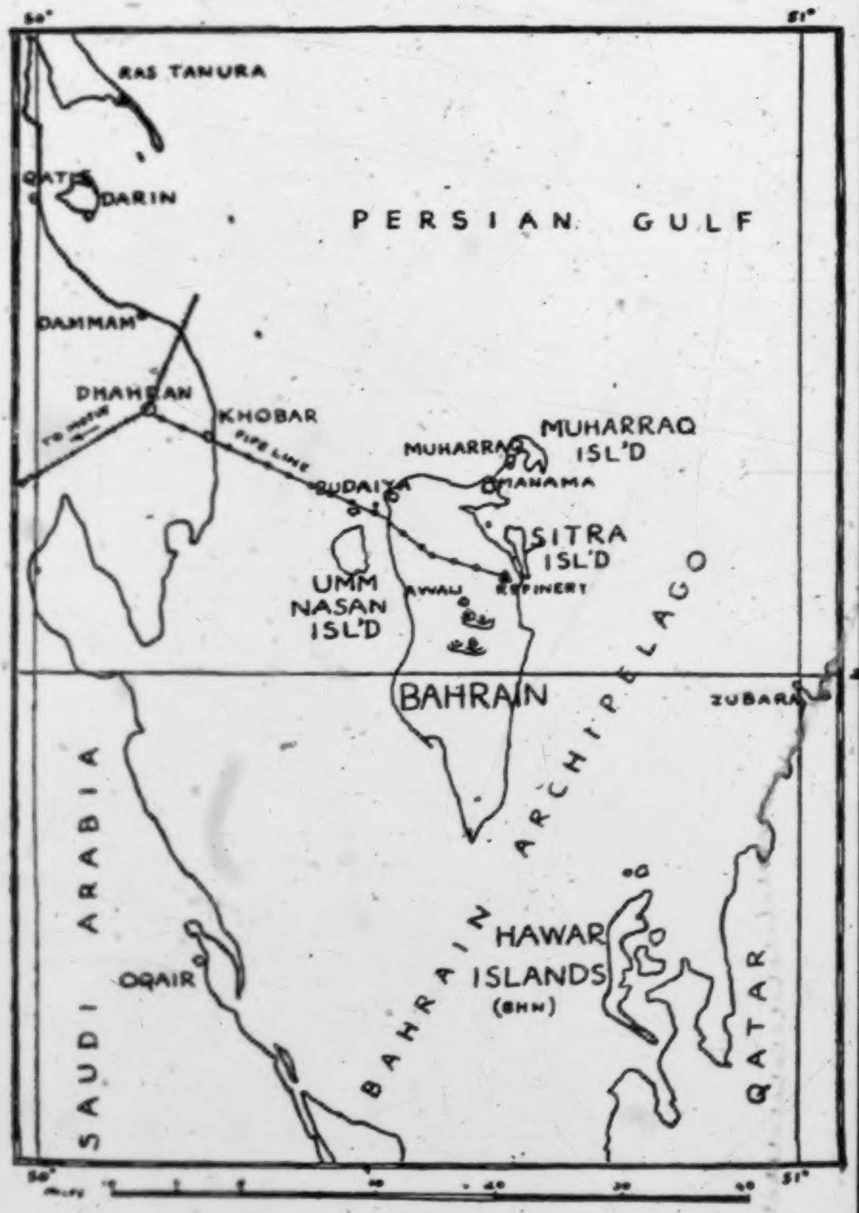
50°
51°
RAS TANURA
QATIF
DARIN
PERSIAN GULF
DAMMAM
DHAHRAN
TO HOFUF
KHOBAR
PIPE LINE
MUHARRAQ
MUHARRAQ ISL'D
BUDAIYA
MANAMA
SITRA ISL'D
UMM NASAN ISL'D
AWALI
REFINERY
BAHRAIN
BAHRAIN ARCHIPELAGO
ZUBARA
SAUDI ARABIA
HAWAR ISLANDS
(BHN)
OQAIR
QATAR
50°
51°
Miles
10
20
30
40

BAHRAIN AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

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643

H.H. SHAIKH SULMAN BIN HAMED AL-KHALIFAH, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E.,
Ruler of Bahrain.

Photo :
National Art Studi

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p. 20

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ديوان حاكم جزائر البحرين وتوابعها

لم يحدث أن قد كتب للبحرين
دليل حتى يومنا هذا ولذا فنحن جد
مغتبطون بأن حمد بلكريف المولود في
البحرين و المترعرع فيها قد انتهز
الفرصة المواتية لكتابة مثل هذا الدليل
لكي يطلع عليه كل من يزور البحرين
و ليواجه الحقائق الصادقة لشتى شؤونها
و يتمتع بالأقامة بين ربوعها •

و اننا لنتمنى مخلصين لهذا الدليل
النجاح التام في هدفه الا و هو تعريف
البحرين لزائريها الاجانب•

سلمان بن حمد الخليفه

حاكم البحرين

No Guide Book to Bahrain has yet been produced, and we are therefore glad that Hamed Belgrave, who was born and brought up in our country, has taken the opportunity to write this guide to Bahrain so that visitors to it may learn the truth about it and may enjoy their stay here.

We wish this book every success in its aim of presenting Bahrain to foreign visitors.

SULMAN BIN HAMED AL-KHALIFAH,
Ruler of Bahrain.

p. 21

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WELCOME TO BAHRAIN

A COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE
FOR TOURISTS AND TRAVELLERS

by

JAMES H. D. BELGRAVE

1953

Printed in England by
MARK & MOODY LTD., STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE
and Published by JAMES H. D. BELGRAVE

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Sir Charles Belgrave

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Part I.—GENERAL INFORMATION.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

BAHRAIN is an independent Arab State ruled by His Highness Shaikh Sulman bin Hamed al-Khalifah, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E. The state consists of an archipelago of small low-lying islands situated about half-way down the Persian Gulf, some 20 miles from the Arab coast and slightly less distant from the Qatar Peninsular. In the past Bahrain owed its importance to its position as the centre of the pearl industry of the Persian Gulf; today it is better known for its oil field and refinery. 101

"Bahrain" or more correctly "al-Bahrain" means "The Two Seas" and this name, which was formerly applied to the whole coast of Eastern Arabia from Kuwait to Qatar, has long puzzled Arab philologists. Many derivations of the name have been suggested. One is that the two seas are the Persian Gulf and the pool of sweet water below the sands which irrigates the gardens of Qatif and Bahrain. Another, suggested by the writer al-Ashari, is that there was once a great salt lake near Hasa, which was the second of the two seas. A third suggestion is that the name "Bahrain" has some connection with the submarine springs (Ar. singular 'Ain) of fresh water that are found in many places along the coast of Arabia. However a serious objection to this theory is that 'Ain starts with an Arabic letter which is not present in the spelling of "Bahrain." There are other places called Bahrain in Egypt, North Africa and in Persia. 103

There are five principal islands in the group, whose total area is approximately 231 square miles; the largest is Bahrain itself, which is about 30 miles long and from 8 to 10 miles wide. A causeway 1½ miles in length, carrying a motor road, links Manama, capital of the State, which is on the north-east tip of Bahrain island, with the neighbouring town and island of Muharraq. Half-way down the east coast of Bahrain a bridge connects Bahrain with Sitra island. Among the other islands of the group are Nebih Salih, north of Sitra, whose prolific fresh water springs irrigate the date groves which cover the island and which are said to be the best in Bahrain; Jidda, a small rocky islet off the west coast of Bahrain, now used as a penal settlement; and Umm an-Nasaan, a large low-lying island to the south-west of Jidda, which H.H. The Ruler has developed as a breeding place for gazelle and black buck. 131

Some miles south of Bahrain and very near the coast of Qatar are the 16 islands of the Howar group, the largest of which is 11 miles in

131 length and a mile wide. "Howar" means "Young Camel" and the island was so called because it is similar in shape though smaller than Bahrain, and so was described as its offspring.

There are many other little islands in the Bahrain archipelago; some contain small villages or fishermen's huts while others are deserted except during the occasional visits of migratory birds or pearl divers who come to the islands during the diving season to draw water from the freshwater springs.

311 Along the northern coast of Bahrain there is a narrow strip of land some three miles wide which is under cultivation. The fertile gardens 137 containing date and loz (Indian almond or Terminalia) pomegranate, banana and fig trees are irrigated from many natural springs and artesian wells. But in the waterless areas south of the cultivation, in the centre of the island, only sparse and hardy desert flora exists. Although this desert may seem bare to the eyes of a visitor accustomed to the lush greenness of Europe or the States, it is in fact covered with a great variety of desert plants which were found, in a recent survey, to include some 200 species.

133 Beyond the cultivated area the land is barren and the landscape consists of low rolling hills with numerous rocky cliffs and dry wadis. Most of the Islands of Bahrain are surfaced with hard limestone rock, covered in many places with sand dunes, and, in the case of the main island, with pre-historic tumuli. From the shore line the topography rises gradually towards the centre where it again drops off into a basin surrounded by steep cliffs. Towards the centre of the basin there is a very pronounced rocky promontory known as "Jebal ad-Dukhan," the "Mountain of Smoke," a name given to it because of the vague and hazy appearance it often presents, particularly during the hot summer months. The Jebal is only 450 feet above sea level and 250 feet above the surrounding plain but often, when mist surrounds its base, it gives the impression of being a considerable mountain.

Although Bahrain is a small country yet it displays a very varied 226 landscape and many surprising contrasts between old and new. It is primarily a sea faring state. The brilliant blue and green waters, 228 studded with white sails, which surround the islands provide the people of Bahrain with fish, which they catch from boats and in traps, fresh water, from the submarine springs, coral stone for building and pearls which made Bahrain such an important trading centre in the past. 361 The coastal towns have an attractive appearance. Manama's water front is lined with high white houses and beyond the town date gardens extend in an unbroken line down to the water's edge. Roads in the northern part of Bahrain pass through avenues of tall and stately date palms, bearing great bunches of golden, red and yellow fruit during 133 the summer months. The south of the island is a miniature desert and in the foothills around the Jebal there are many little wadis which 000 after the rainy season are bright with desert flowers and shrubs. Even

In the hottest time of the year the evenings are comparatively cool in the desert country and just before sunset the hot glare fades from the rocky hills and valleys and is replaced by a warm pink glow which changes the whole appearance of the scene. The sea, the gardens and the desert and its pleasant winter climate all combine to make Bahrain an unusual and attractive place.

The climate of Bahrain and the Persian Gulf has been, wrongly, described as the worst in the world. In Bahrain the year can be divided into three periods each of four months. The best time of the year is from December to March, the cold season, when the wind blows from the north-west and the west. The months of April, May, October and November are pleasant, but from June to the end of September it is hot, extremely humid and the climate is very trying, but although Bahrain in the summer cannot be described as a pleasant place in which to live yet it is not unhealthy. June usually proves an exception to this rule owing to a cool north wind, the "Bara," so called because it is said to last for forty days (Ar. Forty—'Arbain'), which makes the month cooler than May.

The prevailing wind in Bahrain is the "Shamal," a damp wind from the north-west which during the winter has been known to reach a velocity of 50 m.p.h. The "Qaws" is another common wind, hot and dry, it blows from the south-west, bringing to Manama the sands from the south of the island.

Bahrain's rainfall is small, as can be seen from the following table, and averages just under 3" a year.

TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL AND HUMIDITY

Month	*Mean Temperature (half max. min.)*	*Relative Humidity %*	*Mean Rainfall (in inches)*
JANUARY	61°	80	0.39
FEBRUARY	62°	80	.67
MARCH	68°	77	.51
APRIL	76°	72	.24
MAY	84°	65	.08
JUNE	88°	63	0.
JULY	91°	65	0.
AUGUST	92°	71	0.
SEPTEMBER	88°	73	0.
OCTOBER	82°	76	0.
NOVEMBER	74°	78	.24
DECEMBER	65°	81	.83
MEANS	78°	73%	(Total) 2.96 in. p.a.

This table is based on twelve years observations.

WINDS

132

Month	*Wind Mean Velocity*	*Percentage of observations from directions in a year.*							
	M.P.H.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
JANUARY	5	13	3	4	6	10	4	24	34
FEBRUARY	5	19	5	4	10	7	3	16	32
MARCH	5	19	10	8	10	8	8	13	23
APRIL	5	17	8	9	7	9	9	16	25
MAY	5	20	10	6	3	2	5	20	34
JUNE	5	21	3	3	1	1	2	22	47
JULY	4	16	2	3	3	2	7	23	43
AUGUST	3	16	6	8	9	6	7	18	29
SEPTEMBER	3	22	3	10	6	4	7	17	28
OCTOBER	3	17	11	7	5	4	4	19	33
NOVEMBER	4	15	4	6	8	9	5	22	29
DECEMBER	5	13	3	4	6	7	3	25	37
MEANS	4.2	17	6	6	6	6	5	20	33

This table is based on nine years observations.

136 There is little wild life in Bahrain. Mongooses and jerboa (Kangaroo rats) are common in the cultivated area and in the desert respectively in the south of the island and on Umm an-Nasaan there are gazelle and hare. During certain seasons of the year migratory birds make their appearance, including the Hubara, the lesser bustard, which is hunted with falcons by the Ruling Family. Other game birds, duck, snipe and sand grouse are sometimes seen in Bahrain. There are, however, many small local birds including bulbuls, hoopoes and a covey of parrots which at various times escaped from their owners and have now become indigenous.

There are many sea birds in Bahrain. The commonest are tern and cormorant, which nest in thousands on small uninhabited islands filling the air for miles around with the noise of their comings and goings and their quarrels over nesting grounds. Herons and flamingoes are frequently seen as well as other smaller species of shore and sea birds.

This is Bahrain, and it is hoped that the information in the following chapters will add to the interest of the reader who is living in Bahrain, or passing through, by telling him something about the country.

CHAPTER II

THE PEOPLE

162 BAHRAIN is often described as a land of contrasts, and this is especially true of its inhabitants, for in this small group of islands, no larger than a pencil point on a map of the world, there are some 109,650 people (1950 census) drawn from over thirty nations of the world. In the same census it was found that 6,000 Bahrainis were working abroad

in neighbouring countries. Figures often make dry reading, but the following may be of some interest as they demonstrate the mixture of races present in the islands. 162

NATIONALITIES.	
Bahrainis	91,179
Persians	6,934
Indians, Pakistanis and Goanese	3,043
Saudi Arabs	2,526
Omanis and Muscatis	2,466
Europeans and Americans	2,208
Other foreigners	1,264
	109,650

DISTRIBUTION.	
Manama	39,648
Muharraq and Hedd.	25,577
Other towns and villages	40,579
Awali and ships in port	3,846

Sexes: Males, 58,601. Females, 51,049.

The excess of men over women is due to the number of foreigners working in Bahrain who do not have families with them.

At the current rate of increase it was *estimated* that the population of Bahrain in 1952 was about 115,000 persons, and of Manama, 45,000 persons. [161]

Many races have gone into the making of the Bahrain people; there are the Baharna, the original inhabitants of the islands, who are said to be descended from Arabs taken by Nebuchadnezzar into Iraq, who later fled from that country and settled in Bahrain. They are Shiite Arabs and live mostly in the villages and in certain quarters of Manama. Formerly the Baharna were second class citizens and were content to farm and work for their masters, but today they take an active part in all walks of life in Bahrain. Then there are the Sunni Arabs, most of whom came to Bahrain in the 18th century and during subsequent years; the Ruling Family of Bahrain, the al-Khalifah, are in this group. There are also a number of negroes, mainly of the Sunni sect, who are descended from freed slaves or who were slaves themselves and escaped from other parts of the Gulf to Bahrain where they were manumitted. Persians have also settled in the islands, having left the trials and tribulations of their own country to seek their fortune in Bahrain. 563

It might here be as well to digress slightly from this description of the people of Bahrain to explain the meaning of "Shiite" and "Sunni," terms which so often appear in descriptions of Bahrain and its history. These names refer to the two main sects of Islam between whom the people of Bahrain are about equally divided. 795

The dispute that was to split the Moslems into two rival camps started soon after the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632 A.D. and concerned the future leadership of the young Moslem community which was so rapidly expanding and sweeping over territories which are known today as Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Egypt and Persia. The Prophet was succeeded by two of his Companions, who had stood at his side from the early days of his ministry, Abu Bakr (A.D. 632-34) and Omar (A.D. 634-44), and on the death of the latter a third Compan-

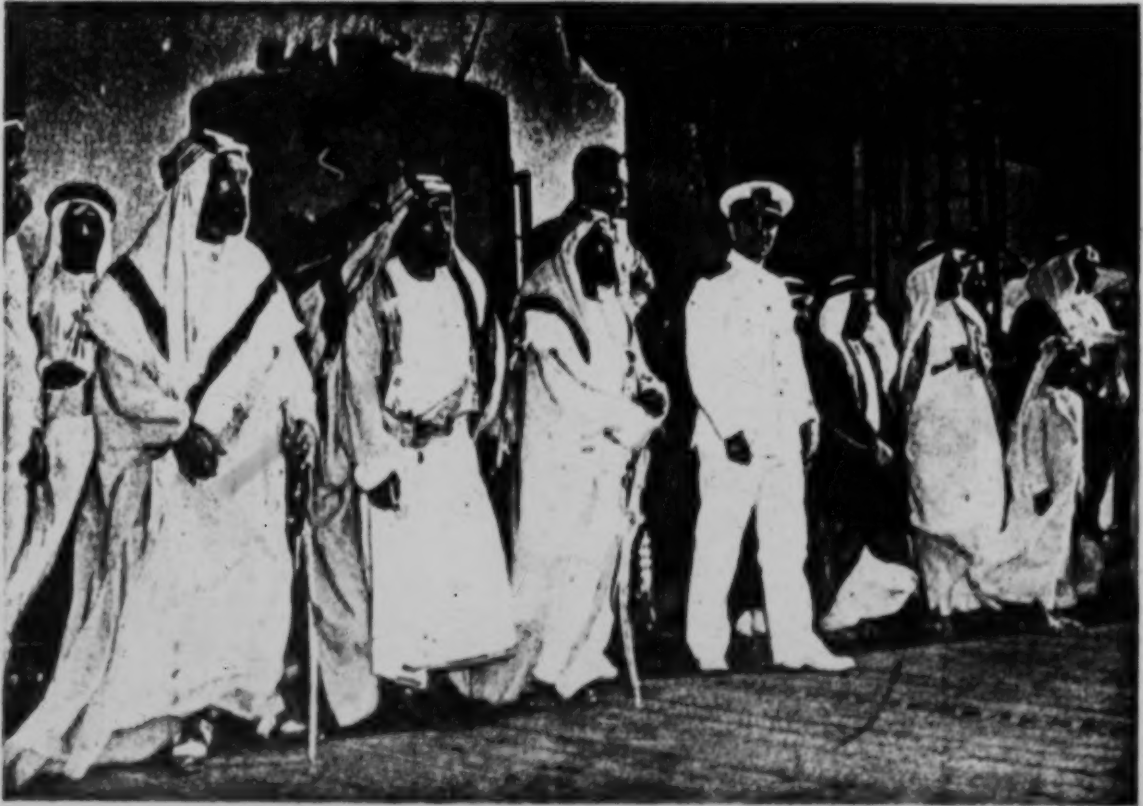
795 ion, Othman, became Caliph. During his period of office Othman allowed nepotism to affect his appointment of office holders and some rebellious officers from Egypt, disliking his governor of that province, appeared in Medina and in the fracas that followed Othman was murdered. On his death Muawiya, Governor of Damascus, who had strengthened his position in Syria by a far-sighted policy towards the inhabitants, announced himself as avenger of his kinsman Othman and made fiery speeches in the Damascus Mosque. Ali, the Prophet's first cousin and son-in-law, for he had married Muhammad's daughter Fatima, was, however, recognised by many as the rightful Caliph. Ali established himself in Iraq, where most of his supporters lived, and for a number of months skirmished verbally and physically with Muawiya. Finally the two great Arab leaders came to blows at the battle of Siffin in 657. At first the fight went in favour of Ali, but the wily Muawiya, seeing this, suggested that the matter should be decided not by war but by the Quran. Ali was unable to refuse this appeal to a higher authority and arbitration followed, the proceedings of which are not fully known, but which resulted in both candidates being disqualified from the Caliphate. This was a success for Muawiya, who so far had not laid claim to this position and so lost nothing, while Ali had been declared Caliph by his supporters and was forced to ignore the decision. Both leaders retired to their respective provinces and in 661 Ali was murdered by a fanatic of the Kharajite sect. The members of this sect had been Ali's followers but had broken with him on account of the arbitration, which they considered illegal, saying that the sword should have decided the dispute. On Ali's death Muawiya over-ran Iraq and Persia and came to terms with Ali's elder son, Hassan, to whom he granted a pension. When Muawiya died he was succeeded by his son Yazid, and in 680 Ali's younger son, Hussein, together with his family and a small band of followers, left Medina for Kufa in Iraq, where he had been promised support. The treacherous Kufans broke their word, and on the plain of Kerbela the small band of men, women and children were killed or taken prisoners. It is in mourning for this event that the Shiites of Bahrain still hold their Passion Play on the 9th and 10th of the Arabic month of Muharram. The death of Hussein under such tragic circumstances transformed what had been a political dispute into a religious issue, and the breach thus made between the Orthodox Sunnis and the Shiites has been widened down the ages by the activities of fanatics on both sides.

The Sunnis have been all-powerful under the Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphs, the Seljuqs and the Ottoman Turks, while the Fatimids of Egypt and the Safavids of Persia have been of Shiite origin. Today the Shia are mostly found in Iraq, Persia and Pakistan, while the Sunni are in the majority in other parts of the Islamic world. In the islands of Bahrain the majority of the Shia are of the moderate Ithnashariya sect and the Sunnis are of the Malaki rite.

142 The typical Bahrain Arab is short and slight in build, but on the whole he is strong and healthy, the average height of a man is 5′ 5″.

H.E. SHAIKH ISA BIN SULMAN AL-KHALIFAH,
eldest son of the Ruler of Bahrain.

Photo :
National Art Studio.



On a visit to an American Aircraft Carrier. *Left to right* : H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa al-Khalifah, C.I.E., H.E. Shaikh Muhammad bin Isa al-Khalifah, C.B.E. ; H.H. The Ruler of Bahrain ; Sir Charles Belgrave, K.B.E., Adviser to the Bahrain Government, and the Captain.

Photo : Official Photograph U.S. Navy

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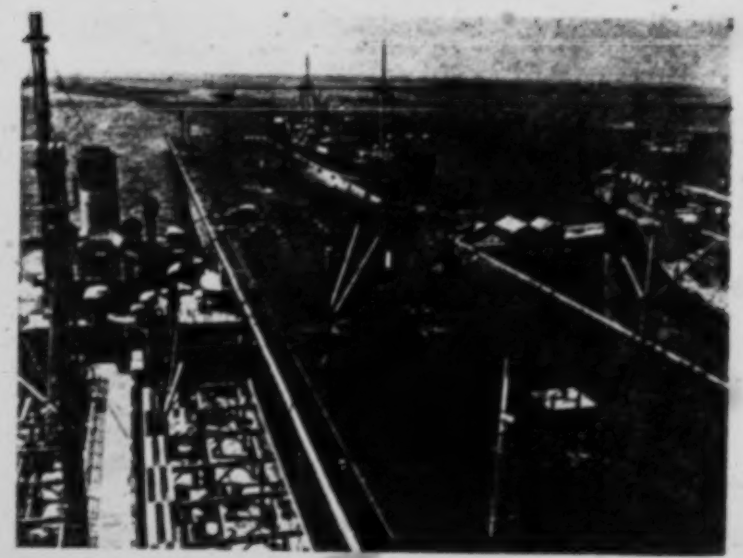

Sitra Wharf.

Photo : Bahrain Petroleum Company.

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A scene in Awali.

Photo : Bahrain Petroleum Company.

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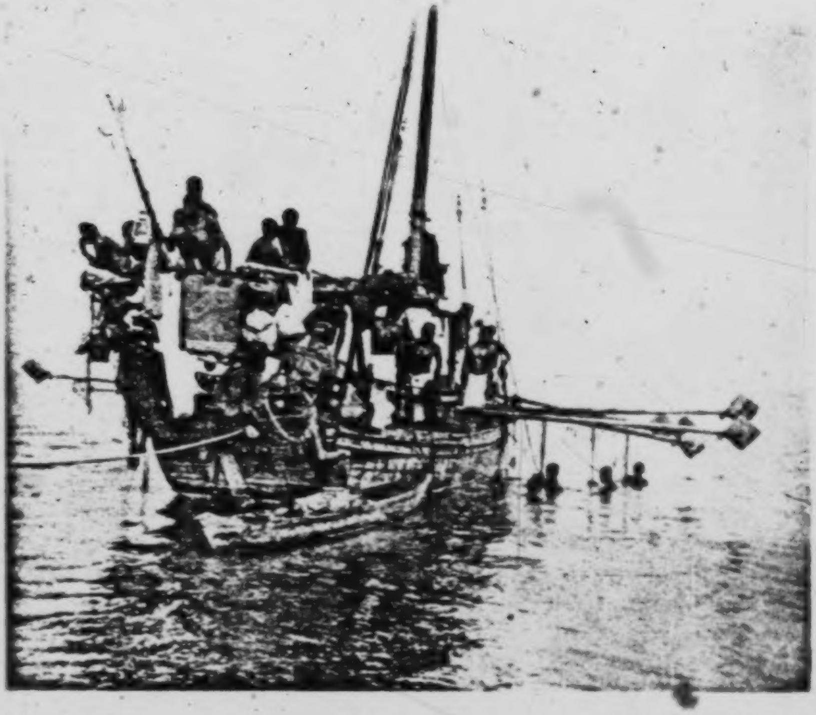
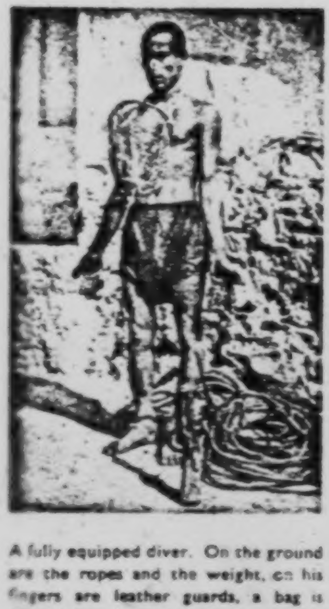


A small diving boat.

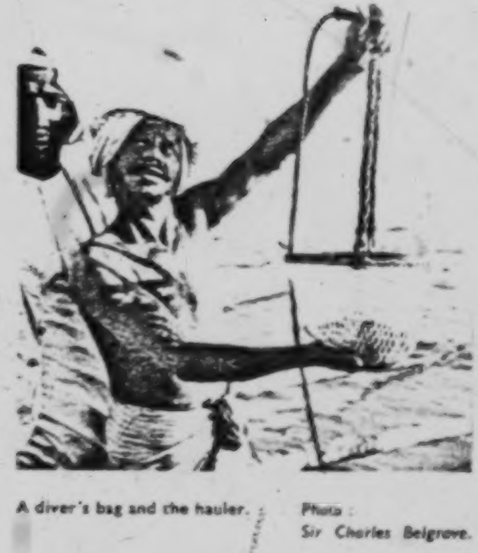
Photo : Sir Charles Belgrave.

228



A fully equipped diver. On the ground are the ropes and the weight, on his fingers are leather guards, a bag is round his neck and a clip on his nose.

Photo : Sir Charles Belgrave.



A diver's bag and the hauler.

Photo : Sir Charles Belgrave.

In complexion the people vary greatly, some, especially those who work 142
in offices, are very fair, while the African element in the population
has produced the opposite colouring. During the past ten years the 291
fashion among the men of Bahrain for wearing partly European dress [177]
has developed rapidly, mainly due to the operations of the oil company,
where long flowing robes are not only a nuisance but often dangerous.
The older men, however, and the members of the Ruling Family still
wear the traditional Arab dress which can be seen in its full glory in
the picture of H.H. The Ruler. The basic garment is the "thobe,"
a long shirt fastened up to the neck, above it comes a cloak of brown,
white or black wool, with gold braided edges, the "bisht" or "aba".
On the head is a small skull cap, not usually visible, over which is a white
or coloured headcloth "gutra' held in place by means of a black or white
wool ring, called "agal." The last was originally a camel hobble which
the bedouin in the desert used to wear on their heads when travelling,
removing it when in camp, but today it has lost its original use and is
just an article of attire. Members of the Ruling Family, all of whom 644
use the title "Shaikh," wear gold head-rings on formal occasions,
while H.H. The Ruler and the senior members of the family wear 292
swords and daggers in gold scabbards.

The purdah system still exists in Bahrain, although it is gradually 562
being modified, and women are veiled when they appear in public;
the more old fashioned wearing black masks concealing the upper part 291
of the face, the younger contenting themselves with veils of black net.
Although many women in the towns wear European clothes, nylons
and cosmetics, they never appear outside their houses without a voluminious
black cloak which covers them from the tops of their heads
to the ground. In the country the Baharna women wear a large square
shawl, black, blue or sometimes brightly covered, which conceals the
clothes they wear. Despite the impression which may have been given 562
by this description of veiling still current in Bahrain, the women of the
country are now living a much wider life than formerly. Many girls 178
go to the schools where as well as doing lessons they play games and
do gymnastics, and what they learn at school gives them more interests
at home when they marry. Family parties are commoner and husbands
will now allow themselves to be seen driving with their wives in cars,
which some years ago was almost unknown. In many ways the life of
the women of Bahrain is improving. However, a fact that visitors
to Bahrain should remember is that attempts to take photographs
of women are usually strongly resented though the ordinary Arab male
is fairly immune to the photographic enthusiasm of visiting Europeans.

In Bahrain, unlike most other parts of the Arab World, the upper 551
classes of Arab society have retained their traditional dress, while the
working classes have adopted shirts and trousers. A result of this is 291
that one should not be surprised if young men dressed in Arab clothes 177
speak excellent English, know much about European history, French
cooking and American enterprise, for they have probably been educated
at the American University of Beirut or in Egypt or England. The 000

The

186 177 young business men and merchants are proud of their country and are inclined to be annoyed by visitors who confine their attention to the antiques and "quaint" sights of Bahrain, ignoring modern buildings and new enterprises. Graduates of Bahrain and foreign schools are go-ahead in their outlook and are determined to modernise Bahrain as much as possible; for this purpose they are willing to break with many of the traditions of the past, which are so often of interest to Europeans and Americans. Despite this, the young men of Bahrain appreciate meeting the foreigners who live in or visit their country.

CHAPTER III

THE STATE

648 Bahrain has been in treaty relations with the British Government since 1820. Its relations with the British Government and with other foreign governments are conducted through the British Political Agent in Bahrain. Bahrain is also the headquarters of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, who lives at Jufair.

643 The Head of the State is His Highness Shaikh Sulman bin Hamed al-Khalifah, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., who was born in 1894, the eldest son of the late Ruler, Shaikh Hamed bin' Isa al-Khalifah, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. He succeeded his father in 1942 and has three sons: Their Excellencies Shaikhs 'Isa, Khalifah and Muhammad, and seven brothers. Shaikh Sulman is the tenth Shaikh of the Khalifah family to rule in Bahrain since it was conquered by his ancestor Shaikh Ahmed bin Khalifah in 1782.

642 The form of government can be described as a benevolent autocracy; the Ruler governs his State through Arab and British officials, who are in charge of the various departments of State, and by means of councils and committees consisting of elected and nominated members representing the different communities. Shaikhs of the Ruling Family preside over many of the councils and hold posts in the administration.

647 The principal government departments are the Adviserate (The Secretariat), Customs, Education, Electricity, Finance, Judical, Lands, Police, Public Health, Public Works, Passports, Religious Endowments etc., etc. In the towns of Manama, Muharraq, Hedd and Rifaa there are municipalities; the first of these was established in Manama in 1920.

651 The revenue of the State is mainly derived from oil royalties, including payments on oil which is imported for refining, and from customs dues on imports. There is no income tax and no land tax but in the towns there is a small municipal tax on houses, shops and places of business. 652 The revenue of the State for the year 1370 A.H. (October 1950—October 1951) was Rupees 25,155,700 (£1,866,000) and the estimated revenue for 1372 (September 1952—September 1953) is much greater owing to a revision of the oil payments by which the

Bahrain Government receives 50% of the profits of the oil industry. 652
The Eastern Bank, since it was established in 1919, has served as the State's Treasury and a Budget is published every year showing the revenue and expenditure of the State.

The Customs Directorate is in the centre of the Manama sea front 651
and there are subsidiary offices in Muharraq Town, at the Airport
and at Sitra. All goods of any kind which are imported or exported 439
must pass through the customs. The Customs Pier at Manama, which 504
was originally built in 1917, has frequently been lengthened and enlarged and now extends for a quarter of a mile out to sea. Owing to shallow water, vessels in the Manama harbour have to anchor some three miles from the shore and passengers and cargo are conveyed to and from the steamers by launches, barges and sailing dhows. The port and storage facilities in Bahrain are better than elsewhere in the Gulf and importers are allowed to retain their goods in the customs premises for ninety days before re-exporting them. There are usually about 90-100 sailing vessels and launches alongside and anchored off the pier, these come from other Gulf ports, from the west coast of India and from the Red Sea. Walking down the customs pier one sees many interesting types of vessels and sea-faring Arabs from all parts of the Gulf and beyond it.

On the west of the entrance to the Pier is the Passport Office. 486
Passport Officials go aboard all passenger vessels and are present at the Airport when aircraft arrive. Bahrain has had its own passports since 1929.

On the south side of the Square, which has a little garden in the 344
centre of it, is the "Bab al-Bahrain," the Gateway of Bahrain, consisting of two large blocks of office buildings with an archway in the centre. On the south side of the western block there is a fine old Arab door and on the balconies of the buildings as well as around the garden in the Square there are cement panels containing Arabesque patterns copied from old buildings in Bahrain.

The Bab al-Bahrain contains the finance and accounts department 344
where all payments to the Government for electricity, water, etc., etc., 655
are made, the Land Department which deals with sales and registration
of property and questions about boundaries and ownership of land, 423
the registration of sales being compulsory, and several other government offices. His Highness has a reception room overlooking the 643
square on the first floor of the building where he sits on Wednesday mornings. Here he receives any visitors who wish to call on him and sees people who present petitions. On Monday mornings he visits the Municipal Buildings at Muharraq where he holds a similar reception.

East of the Customs, on the sea front, is the Law Courts Building 692
which contains a number of different courts including religious courts presided over by the Qadis of the Sunni and Shia sects. Certain foreigners, including British, Americans, Pakistanis and Indians are under the judicial authority of H.B.M.'s Political Agent. In mixed

692 cases if the defendant is a Bahrain citizen and the plaintiff is a foreigner the case is heard in a Joint Court. The language of the Bahrain Courts is Arabic and no barristers or wakils who are not Bahrainis are allowed to appear in them.

647 At the eastern end of the sea road[1] is the Adviserate, the Ruler deals with affairs of State in this office on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Beyond the Adviserate is H.B.M.'s Political Agency which was built early in the century.

743 At the western end of the Sea Road is the Government Hospital. It includes a men's and women's hospital, administrative offices, X-Ray, laboratories, operating theatres and out-patients' rooms. There are beds for men and for women, with a few private rooms in each section. The Indian Staff occupy a large three storied building close to the hospital and behind the Women's Hospital is the house of the British nursing sisters. On Awal Road there is a large Public Health Office and beyond it a T.B. Sanatorium and a Mental Hospital. Opposite the Police Fort there are also two small isolation hospitals. In Muharraq there is a maternity hospital in the centre of the town and a clinic on the sea front. In Hedd and in some of the villages there are also small clinics. The Government Medical Staff includes a number of British and Indian doctors and nurses.

871
658 Education in Bahrain is not, at present, compulsory, but every year the number of boys' and girls' schools increases. The oldest school in Bahrain is the Muharraq Boys' School in North Muharraq town, which was built in 1919, and there are now 28 government schools including village schools, town schools, a boys' secondary school, and a technical school where carpentry and engineering are taught. At the beginning of the 1952-53 term there were 4000 boys and 2,500 girls attending government schools. Except in the secondary school, education is free and every year scholarships are given by the Government and BAPCO to enable students to obtain advanced education at the American University of Beirut. There is a students' hostel in Manama which accommodates about 100 boys, here students from the villages and other towns are housed while they attend the more advanced town schools.

[875] Most of the teachers are Bahrainis though there are a certain number of teachers from neighbouring Arab countries. English is taught in the higher classes as well as the usual subjects. All the schools close during the summer from about the middle of June till the end of September. Some of the government schools are among the most noticeable of the modern buildings in Manama.

871 In addition to the Government schools there are a number of private schools including a European day school at Awali, Catholic, Persian and Indian schools in Manama and a girls school run by the mission of the Dutch reformed Church of America. The Oil Company also has a trade school for its Arab employees.

[1] [at Manama -- Analyst]

The people of Bahrain are extremely law abiding and there is very 625
little crime. A force of 300 uniformed police and 200 armed watch-
men is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The 659
Police headquarters is the Fort to the south-west of Manama, this also
contains the Traffic Department, the jail for short term convicts and
the police barracks. There are police stations in various districts of
Manama and Muharraq and in Hedd, Budaiya, Jaw, Sitra and elsewhere
in Bahrain.

Most of the Government buildings in Bahrain are constructed by 653
the Public Works Department whose offices and yards are on the
northern shore of Manama south of the Manama-Muharraq Causeway. 647
This department is also responsible for the Manama town water supply
and the upkeep of roads and bridges. Close to the Public Works 377
Department, on the opposite side of the Causeway, is the power house
and office of the State Engineer. Electricity was first installed in 647
Manama in 1929, later it was extended to Muharraq. The Power
Station now generates about 7½ million Kw. per annum.

In addition to these departments there are others including the 647
Transport Section, near the Police Fort, and the Agricultural Department which runs experimental gardens in Budiaya and Manama and gives advice to Bahrain agriculturalists.

THE RULING FAMILY OF BAHRAIN 643

The Ruler :

His Highness Shaikh Sulman bin Hamed al-Khalifah, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E.

Sons of the Ruler : 644

His Excellency Shaikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifah.
His Excellency Shaikh Khalifah bin Sulman al-Khalifah.
His Excellency Shaikh Muhammad bin Sulman al-Khalifah.

Uncles of the Ruler :

*His Excellency Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa al-Khalifah, C.I.E.
His Excellency Shaikh Muhammad bin Isa al-Khalifah, C.B.E.

Brothers of the Ruler :

Shaikh Mubarak bin Hamed al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamed al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Ali bin Hamed al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Ibrahim bin Hamed al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Khalifah bin Hamed al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Daij bin Hamed al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamed al-Khalifah

Sons of Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa :

Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Ali bin Abdulla al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Hamed bin Abdulla al-Khalifah.

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Sons of Shaikh Muhammad bin Isa :

644 Shaikh Ahmed bin Muhammad al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Ali bin Muhammad al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Khalifah bin Muhammed al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Ibrahim bin Muhammad al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Sulman bin Muhammad al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Hamed bin Muhammad al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Abd al-Aziz bin Muhammad al-Khalifah.
Shaikh Isa bin Muhammad al-Khalifah.

647 HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Adviser to the Government and Commandant State Police : Sir Charles Belgrave, K.B.E.
Director of Customs : Mr. G. W. R. Smith, M.B.E.
Minister of Education : H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa al-Khalifah, C.I.E.
Director of Education : Mr. Ahmed al-Umran.
Directoress of Female Education : Lady Belgrave.
Officer in Charge Finance Department : Mr. Sayed Mahmoud Alaw
Officer in Charge Judicial Department : Mr. Salim al-Arayedh.
Superintendent State Police : Shaikh Khalifah bin Muhammad al-Khalifah.
State Medical Officer : Dr. R. H. B. Snow, M.B.E.
State Engineer : Mr. D. Brammer.
Superintendent Minors' Estates Department : Mr. Muhammad Dowaiger.
Superintendent of the Land Department : Khan Sahib Muhammad Khalil Menon.
Officer in Charge Passport and Emigration Department : Mr. Kadhim Asfour.
Officer in Charge Public Works Department : Major S. Hills.
President of the Religious Endowments Committee :
    Shia : Haj Mohsen at-Tajir.
    Sunni : Shaikh Atiyyatallah al-Khalifah.
Officer in Charge Transport Department : Mr. J. L. Morris.
Director of Agriculture : Mr. W. W. Van Ollenbach.
Secretaries of the Municipalities :
    Manama : Mr. Muhammad Salih Shatr.
    Muharraq and Hedd : Mr. Ibrahim Khalfan.
    Rifaa (East and West) President : Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid al-Khalifah
Secretary Bahrain Chamber of Commerce : Mr. Rashid Zayani.

CHAPTER IV

COMMUNICATIONS

508 Bahrain, owing to its central position in the Persian Gulf, is the natural stopping place for air services, between the Middle East and the Far East and for this reason it is a port of call for many air companies. Bahrain's Airport is on Muharraq Island, a short drive from the town, and is sufficiently large to take the newest types of aircraft including the B.O.A.C. Comet which started services through Bahrain in August, 1952. There is in addition a Persian Gulf air service, Gulf Aviation Company Ltd., in which the Bahrain Government has an important interest and whose headquarters is at Muharraq.

509 Air travel is very popular in the Persian Gulf and there has been a great increase in the air traffic to and from Bahrain. In the twelve

months up to June 1952 an average of 427 civil aircraft and 122 military 509
planes passed through Bahrain each month while in the year 1951 some
11,897 passengers entered Bahrain by air. As well as being connected
with all parts of the world by the major airlines, smaller local services
form a network in the Persian Gulf by which it is possible and usual
for local merchants to go to Qatar or Saudi Arabia in the morning and
to return to Bahrain the same evening. Many people from Bahrain
also spend the weekend with friends in the oil camps of other companies.

The sea has played an important part in Bahrain's history and with 505
the coming of oil and the increased prosperity of the islanders both
steamer and dhow traffic has increased. In the year 1951, 847 steamers
and tankers and 1,416 local craft carried over 47,000 visitors to Bahrain,
a figure equal to about 45% of the total population. The launches
and sailing boats came to Manama, Muharraq and other coastal towns,
while the steamers and tankers anchored at the Sitra Jetty or in the
anchorage north of Manama. At present the only deep water wharves
are those of the oil company.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Despite its small size, Bahrain and the islands of Muharraq and 491
Sitra are provided with a large number of roads, but this can be accoun-
ted for by the presence among the date gardens of many villages as
well as by the need for some form of communication with the scattered
coastal settlements. Within the towns of Manama and Muharraq 363
the main roads have excellent surfaces and are wide enough for the
traffic they carry and the extensive paving that has recently been laid
down has made them safer both for drivers and pedestrians.

From the town of Manama four main roads lead into the country ; 491
to the south-east is Belgrave Road ; to the east, the Causeway ; to
the south, Awal Road and to the west, Budaiya Road.

Belgrave Road becomes Jufair Road after passing through the new residential centre of Qudabiya, and the latter leads past the Race Course to the suburbs of Jufair and Umm al-Hasan.

A second road, Shaikh Isa Road, starts from the Sea Road near the Adviserate and follows a rather erratic course till it leaves the town near the Water Garden and Mental Hospital. From here it passes through four miles of date gardens, broken only by the open ground around the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, then across the bridge at Radhm al-Qawari and into the desert. The road then travels south through the pre-historic tumuli and rises till it passes through an avenue of trees that marks the village of Rifáa al-Gharbi, the winter residence of H.H. The Ruler. From here the road drops abruptly into the central depression and then reaches Awali, 11 miles from Manama. At Awali the road branches in three directions, a road to the east leads to the Refinery and Sitra Island, a second road to the west goes to Zellaq and the west coast of Bahrain and a third skirts Awali and continues

491 south past the Jebal ad-Dukhan and the oil field. This last road, which deteriorates after leaving Awali, after passing Jebal Amr crosses the plain and ascending the rim-rock reaches the Ruler's Hunting Lodge at Rumaitha. From here the road goes due west to another Hunting Lodge at Matalla and joins the road from Zellaq to Ras al-Barr, the southern end of Bahrain Island.

The third main road leading from Manama runs parallel to and about 1-2 miles from the north coast of Bahrain. Passing through some of the most flourishing gardens in the islands, with thick green hedges by the road's edge, the driver is shaded by rows of tall date palms that cast a shadow over the road during most of the day and form an umbrella against the sun. After leaving the village of Jidhafs the road crosses patches of desert, clumps of tumuli alternate with gardens, and for the last few miles before reaching Budaiya, on the north-west corner of Bahrain, there is a shrubby desert where camels, sheep and goats graze. Beyond the Government Experimental Garden the road reaches the sea, and swinging south by the Police Post it enters the village of Budaiya. From here it bears south, through a number of villages and across the pipe-line road from Rifaa to Jesra, and finally to Zellaq.

The fourth road out of Manama, in fact a continuation of the sea road, leads across the Muharraq causeway to the town and island of that name, and after following the Muharraq sea road swings inland and crosses a short stretch of sand before reaching the edge of the Airport. Here the road branches ; one branch leads to the north in the direction of the Airport and the other follows the curve of Arad Bay and then goes straight across the desert to the town of Hedd. Other roads branch off from this to the villages which fringe the coasts of Muharraq and to the gardens of Arad.

To return to the main island of Bahrain. Along the length of the Awal Road and particularly where it passes through the gardens, there are various roads and lanes leading to Zinj and Bilad al-Qadim to Saar and Salmabad, while a little distance to the south of Suq al-Khamis is the turning to the south towards the Adari Pool. Further south again a well-surfaced but somewhat winding road connects the Awal and Budaiya Roads, coming out on to the latter about half a mile west of Jidhafs. Shortly after passing Radhm al-Qawari, second class roads to the east and west lead respectively to the villages of the north-east coast, Tubli, Sanad and Ikur, and to Aali and beyond. Further on along Awal Road there is a road junction with a main road branching off to the south-east in the direction of the Refinery and Sitra. This road, after crossing the Awali-Sitra Road skirts the Refinery and then follows the east coast to the villages of Asker, Jaw and Dour.

It is impossible to describe in detail the many roads in Bahrain, but these are shown on the map of Bahrain and most of them branch off from the main roads which have been mentioned.

505 Communication with the other islands of Bahrain are mentioned
423 in Part III and visits can usually be arranged to them by private agree-
486

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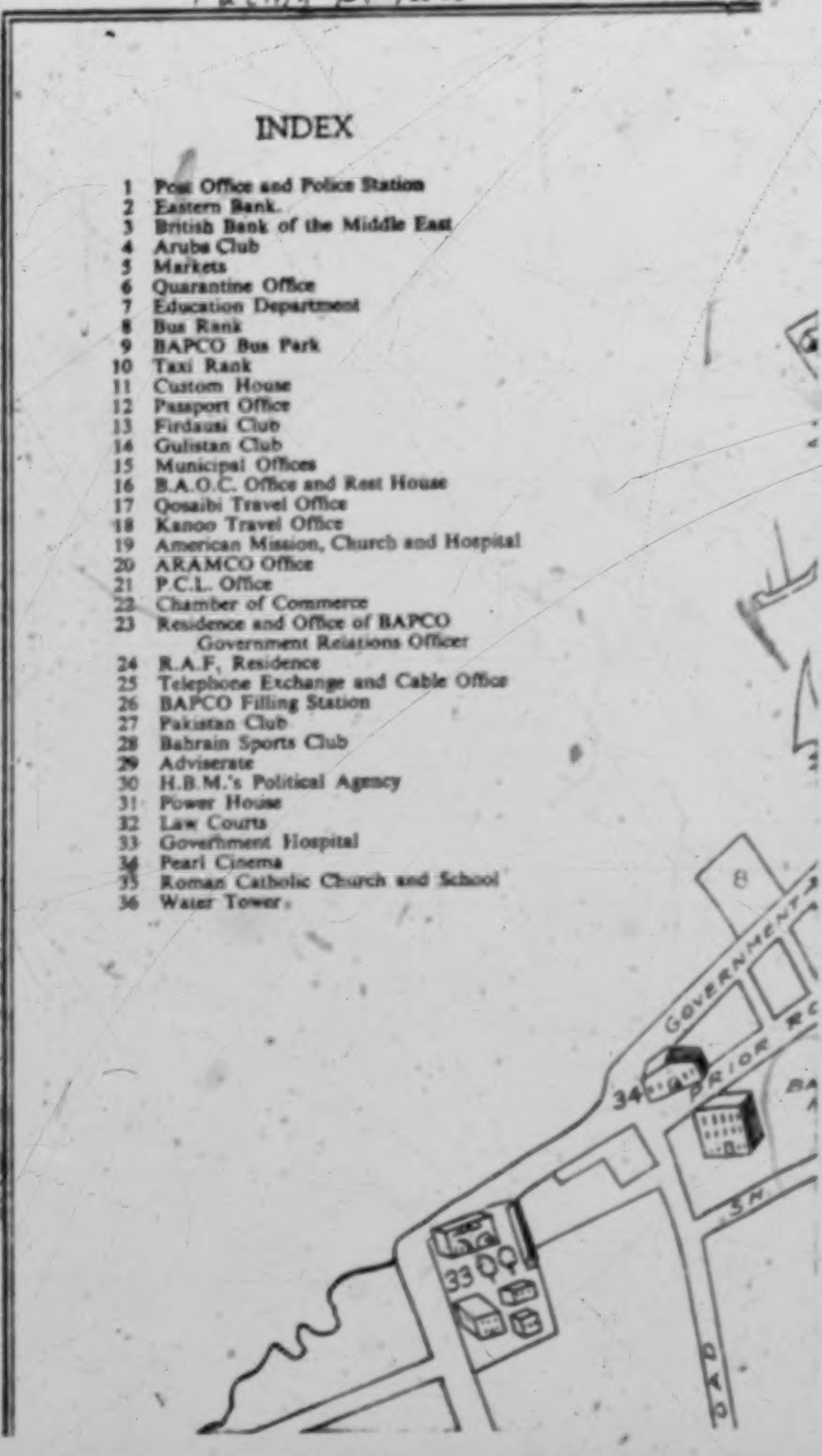

INDEX

1 Post Office and Police Station
2 Eastern Bank.
3 British Bank of the Middle East
4 Aruba Club
5 Markets
6 Quarantine Office
7 Education Department
8 Bus Rank
9 BAPCO Bus Park
10 Taxi Rank
11 Custom House
12 Passport Office
13 Firdausi Club
14 Gulistan Club
15 Municipal Offices
16 B.A.O.C. Office and Rest House
17 Qosaibi Travel Office
18 Kanoo Travel Office
19 American Mission, Church and Hospital
20 ARAMCO Office
21 P.C.L. Office
22 Chamber of Commerce
23 Residence and Office of BAPCO Government Relations Officer
24 R.A.F. Residence
25 Telephone Exchange and Cable Office
26 BAPCO Filling Station
27 Pakistan Club
28 Bahrain Sports Club
29 Adviserate
30 H.B.M.'s Political Agency
31 Power House
32 Law Courts
33 Government Hospital
34 Pearl Cinema
35 Roman Catholic Church and School
36 Water Tower.

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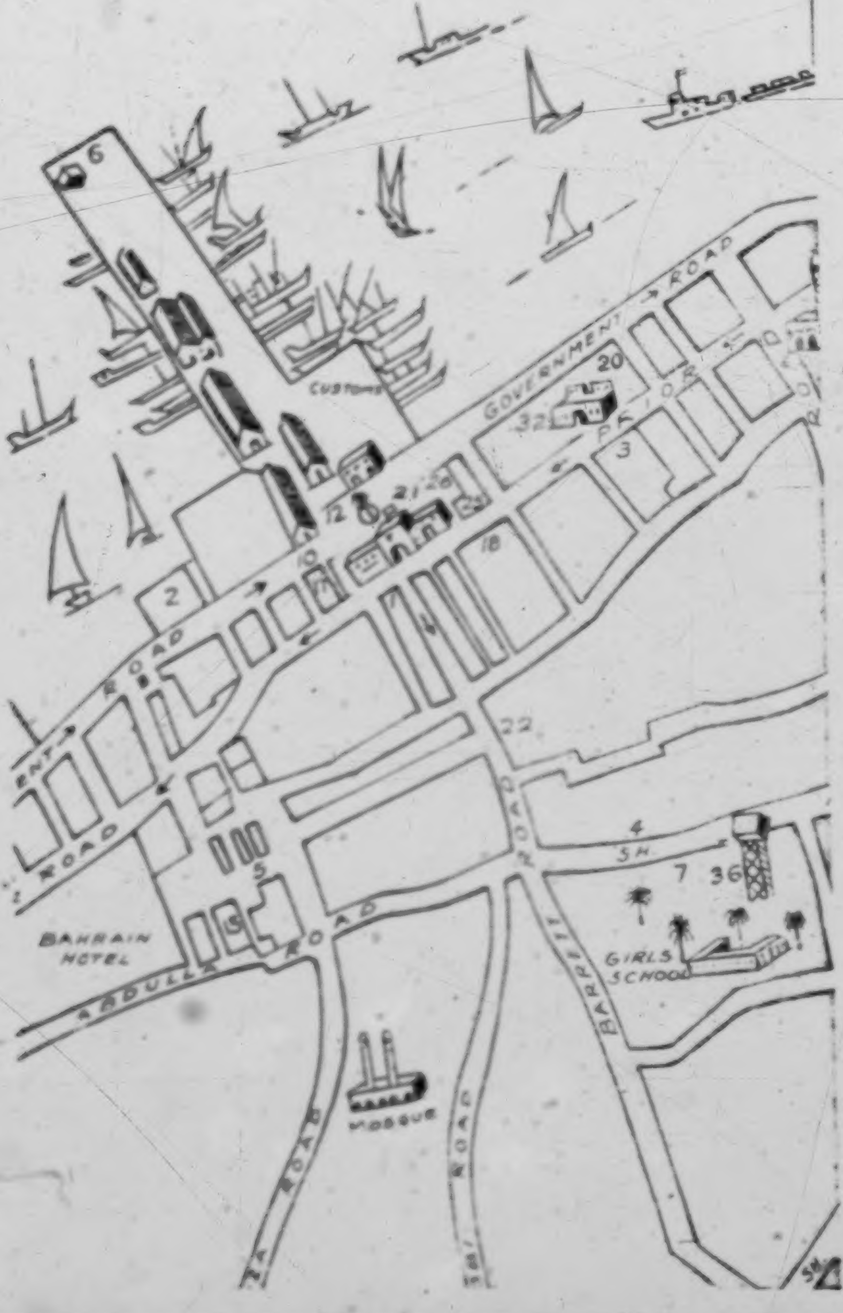
6
CUSTOMS
GOVERNMENT ROAD
20
32
3
21-28
12
10
18
2
ROAD
22
ROAD
4
SH
7
36
GIRLS SCHOOL
5
15
BAHRAIN HOTEL
ABDULLA ROAD
BARRETT
MOSQUE
ROAD
ROAD
SH

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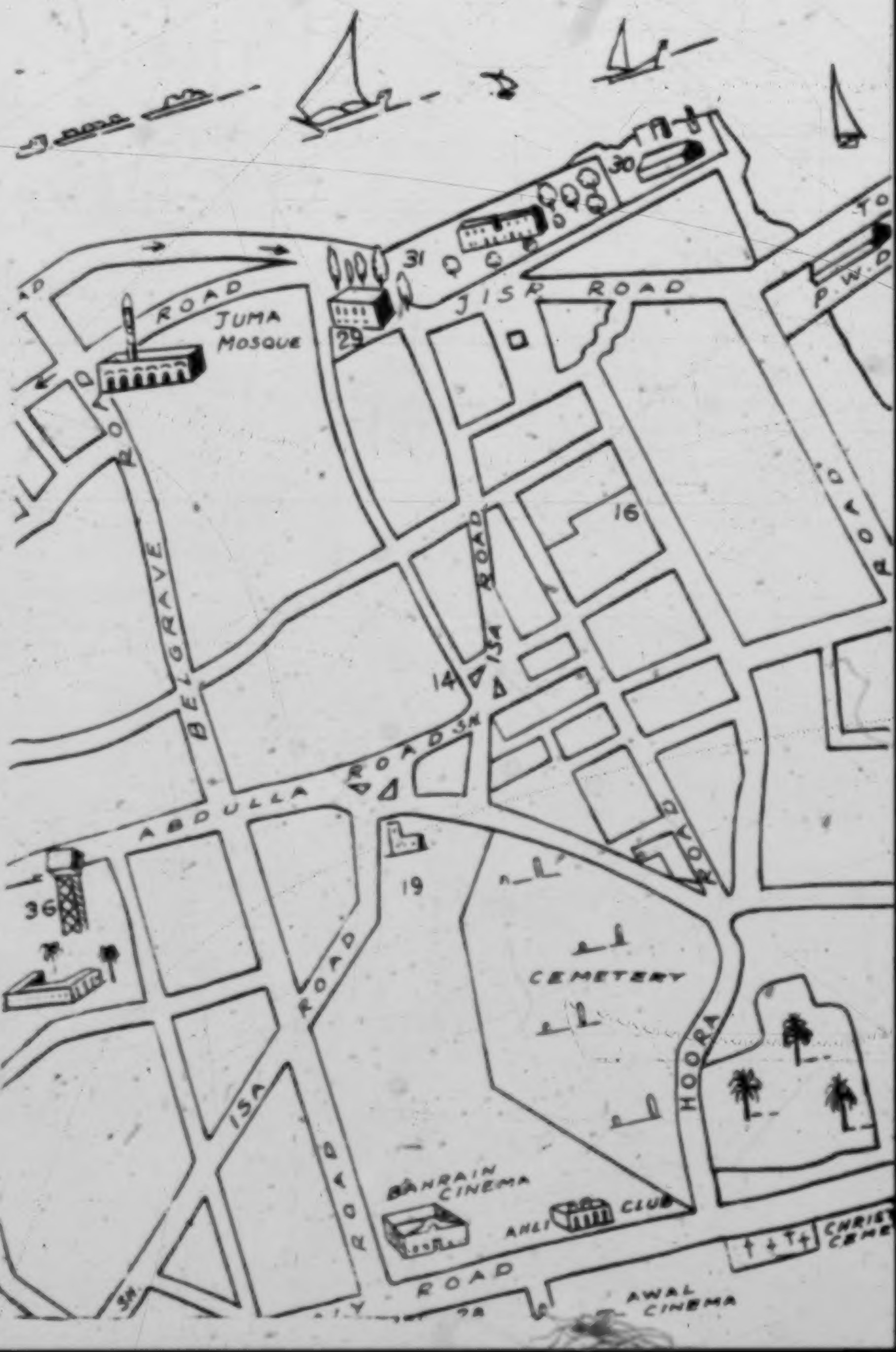
ROAD
JUMA MOSQUE
ROAD
29
31
30
JISR ROAD
TO
P.W.D.
ROAD
16
ISA ROAD
14
BELGRAVE ROAD
ABDULLA ROAD
19
36
CEMETERY
HOORA ROAD
ISA ROAD
ROAD
BAHRAIN CINEMA
AHLI CLUB
CHRIST CEME
ROAD
AWAL CINEMA

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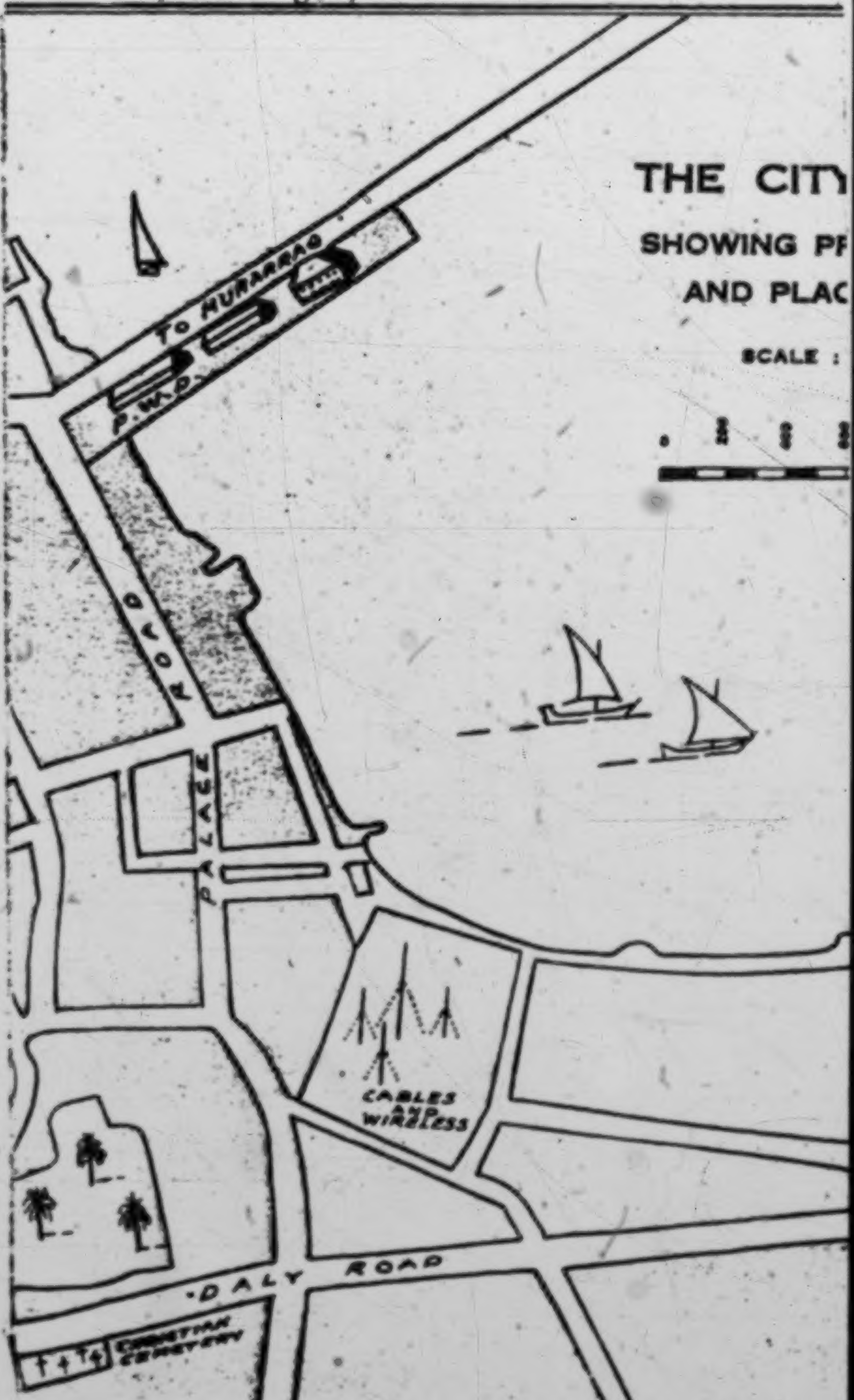
THE CITY
SHOWING PF
AND PLAC
SCALE :
To MUHARRAQ
P.W.D.
ROAD
PALACE
CABLES AND WIRELESS
DALY ROAD
CHRISTIAN CEMETERY

1_2 Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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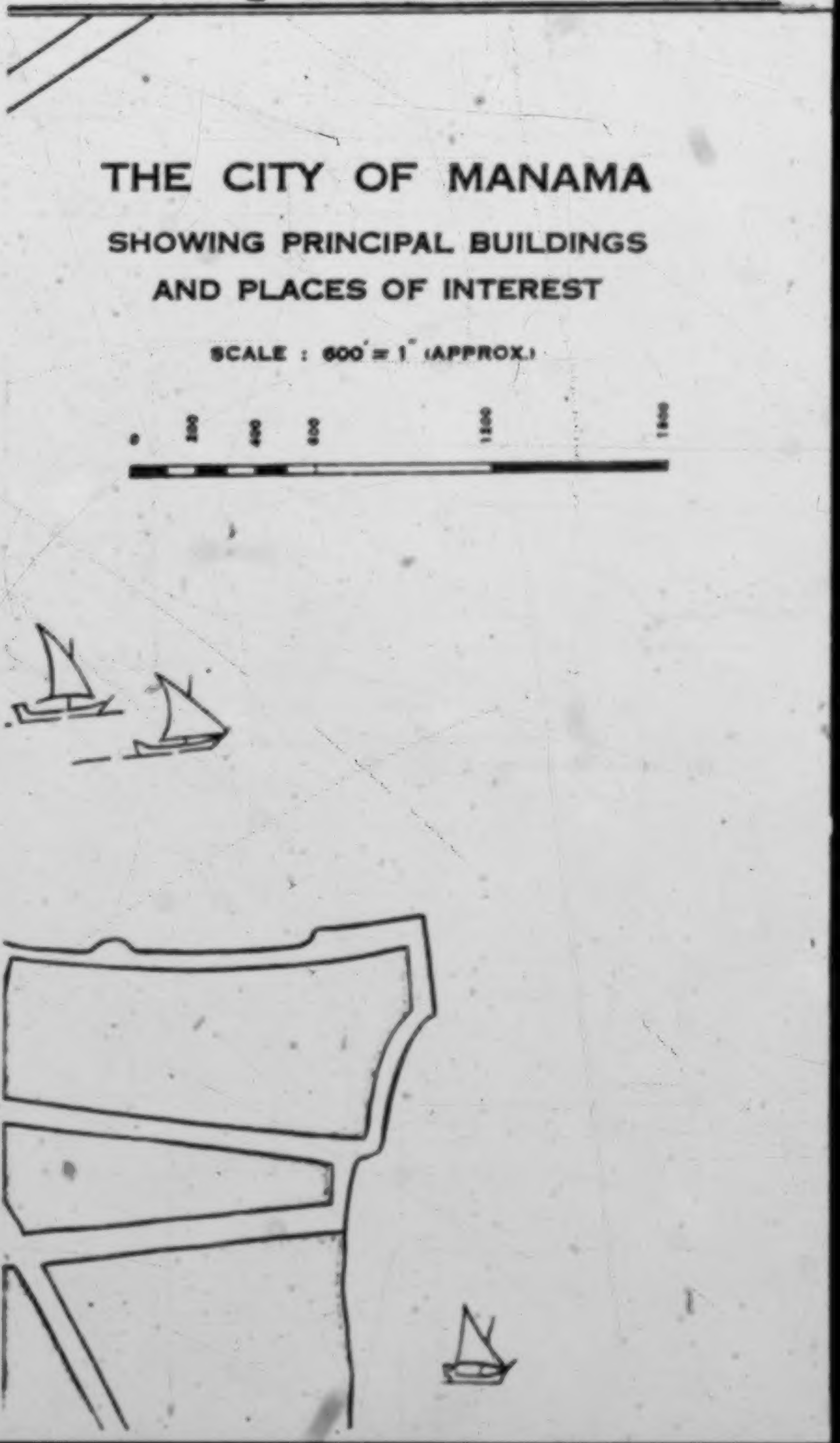

THE CITY OF MANAMA

SHOWING PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

SCALE : 600' = 1" (APPROX.)

0
200
400
600
1200
1800

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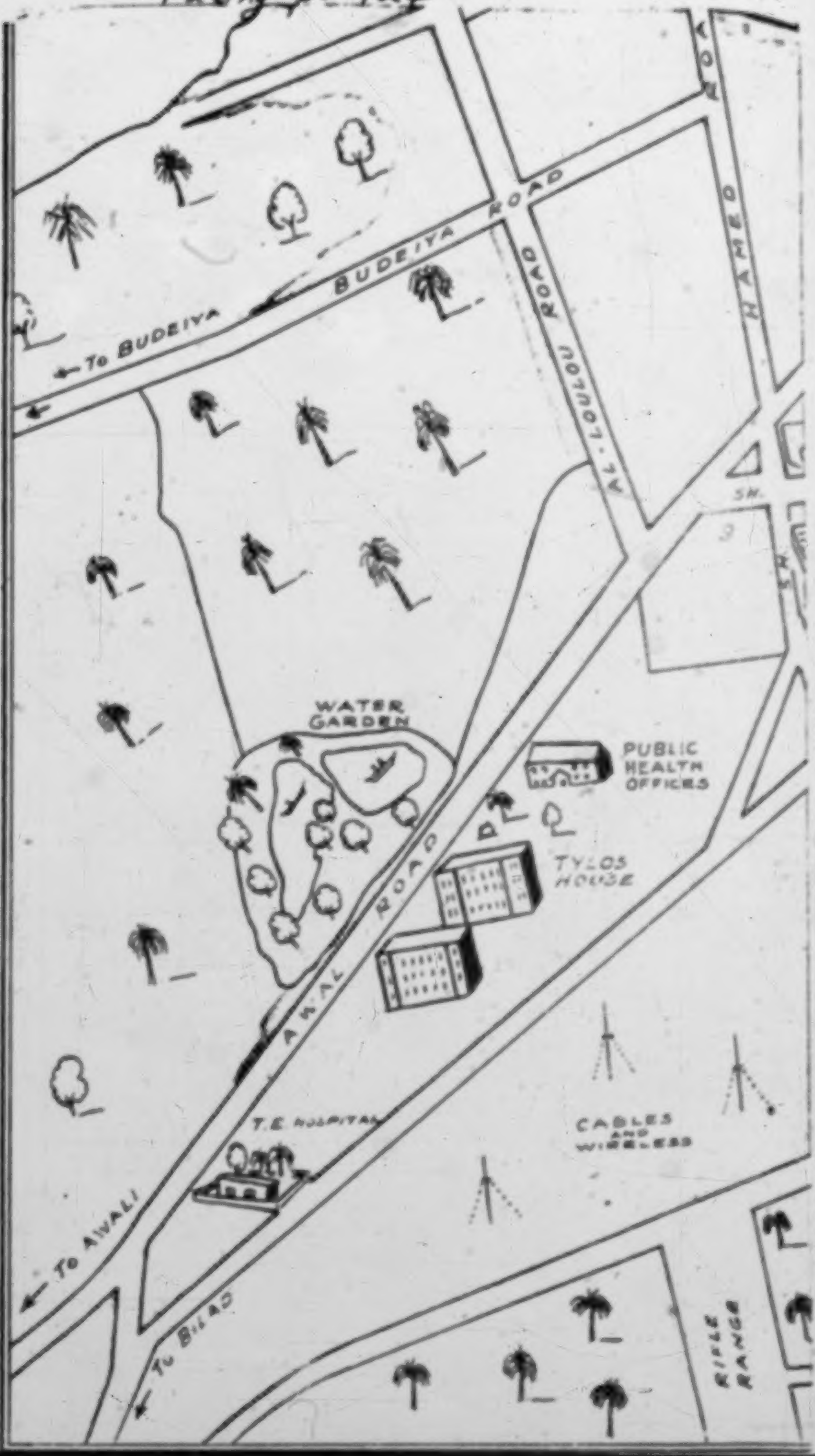
BUDEIYA ROAD
← To BUDEIYA
AL-LOULOU ROAD
HAMED ROAD
SH.
WATER GARDEN
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES
TYLOS HOUSE
AWAL ROAD
T.E. HOSPITAL
CABLES AND WIRELESS
← To AWALI
← To BILAD
RIFLE RANGE

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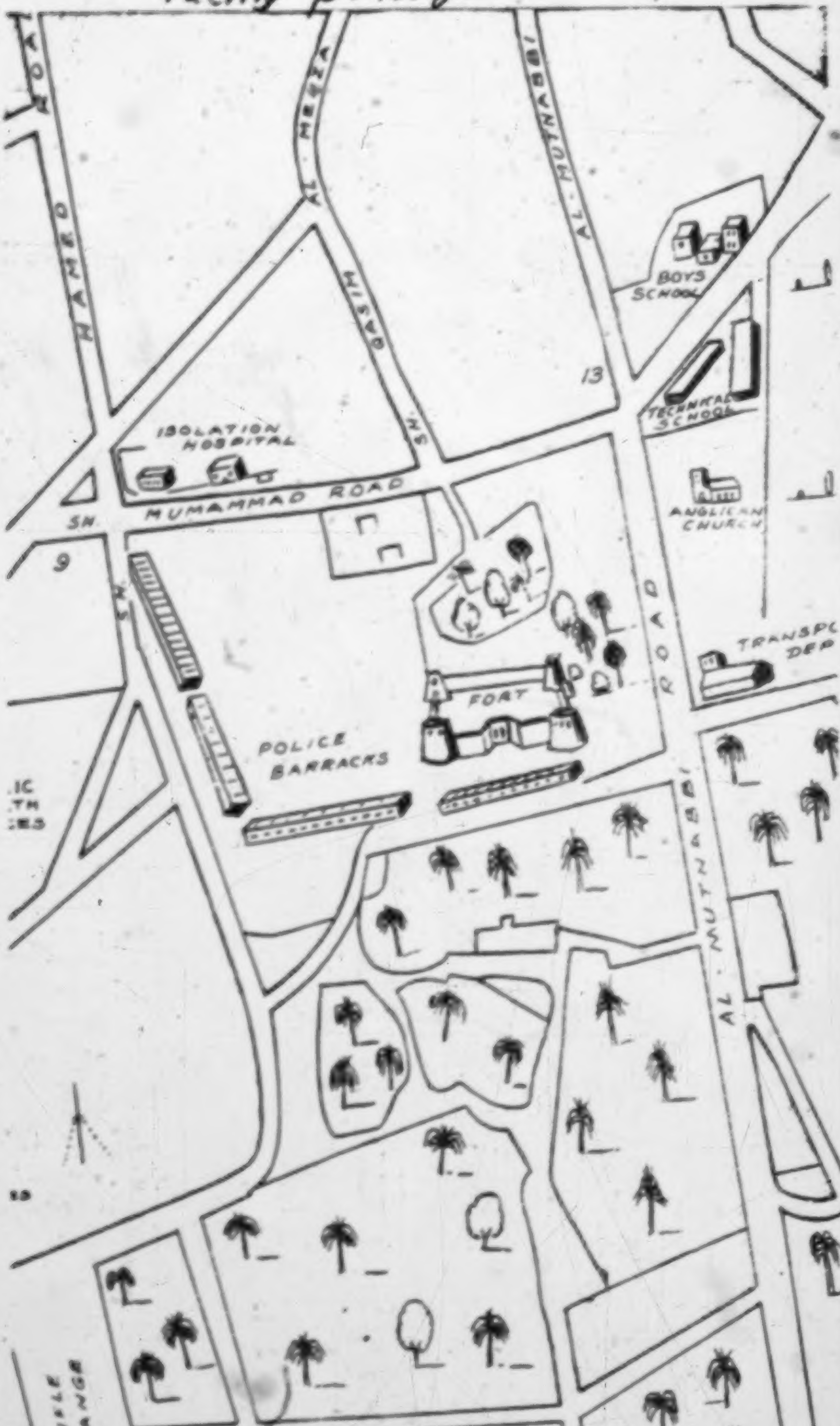
HAMED
AL MEZZA
AL MUTNABBI
QASIM
SH.
13
BOYS SCHOOL
TECHNICAL SCHOOL
ISOLATION HOSPITAL
SH. MUHAMMAD ROAD
9
SH.
ANGLICAN CHURCH
TRANSPO DEP
ROAD
FORT
POLICE BARRACKS
.IC .TH .ES
AL MUTNABBI
RIFLE RANGE

I_1 Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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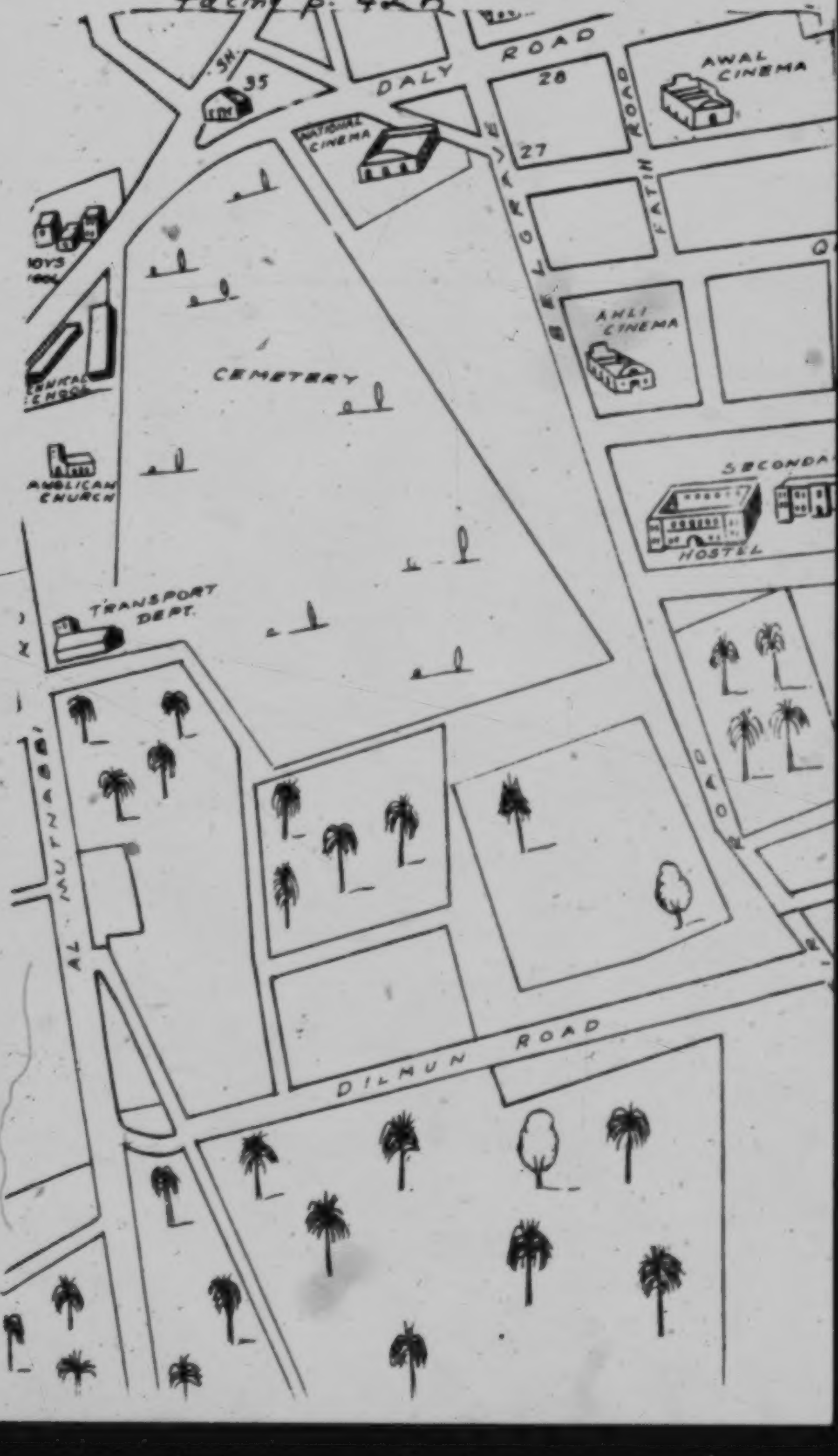
35
SH.
DALY ROAD
28
27
AWAL CINEMA
NATIONAL CINEMA
BELGRAVE
FATIN ROAD
BOYS SCHOOL
CENTRAL SCHOOL
ANGLICAN CHURCH
CEMETERY
AHLI CINEMA
SECONDA
HOSTEL
TRANSPORT DEPT.
AL MUTNABBI
ROAD
DILMUN ROAD

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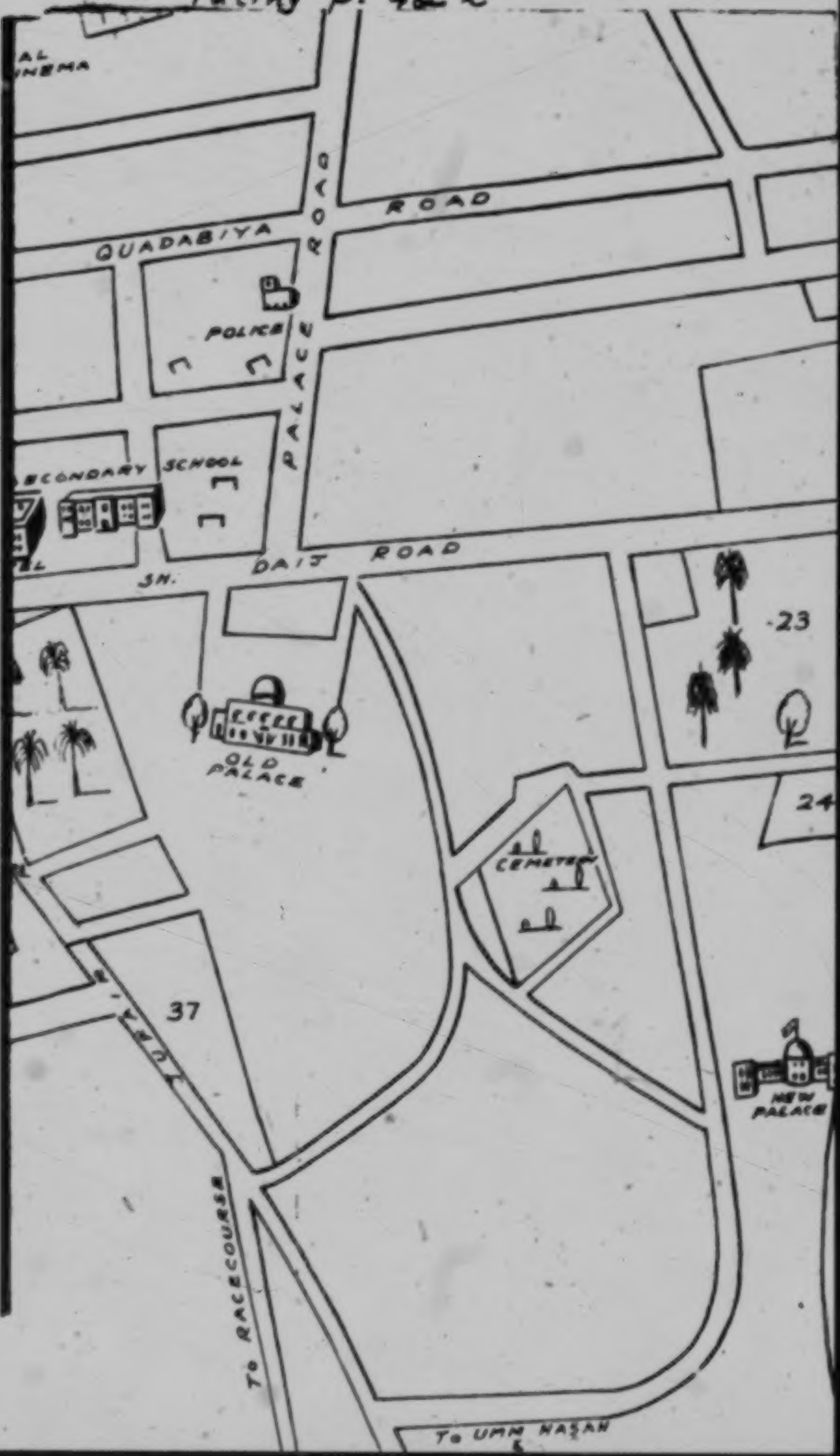
AL
NEMA
QUADABIYA ROAD
PALACE ROAD
POLICE
ECONDARY SCHOOL
SH. DAIJ ROAD
OLD PALACE
23
24
CEMETERY
37
NEW PALACE
To RACECOURSE
To UMM HASAN

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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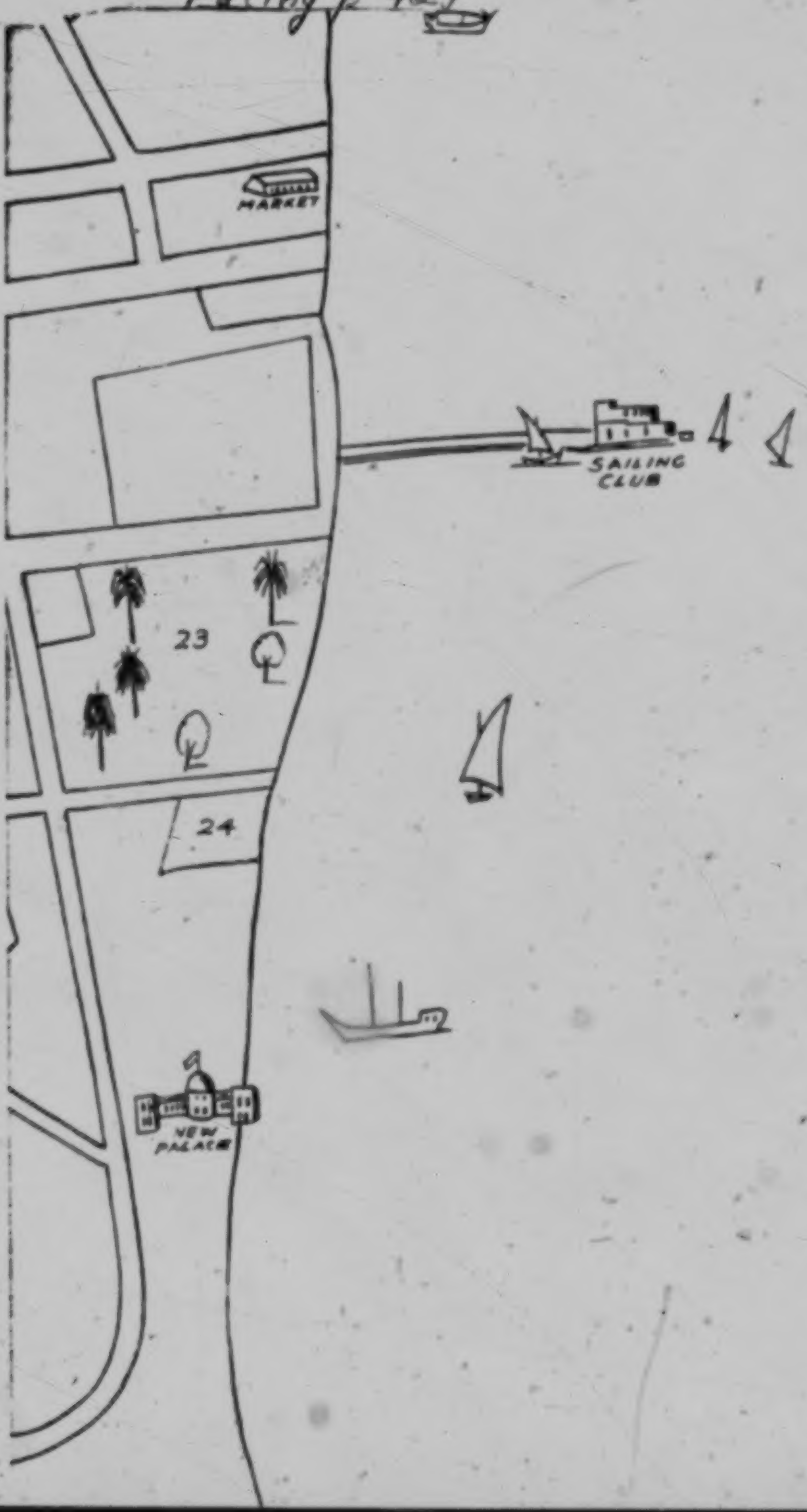
MARKET
SAILING CLUB
23
24
NEW PALACE

505 ment with launch or dhow owners, but it should be remembered that
some of them are private property. Umm as-Sabaan is the private
423 property of Mr. Max W. Thornberg. Jidda being a penal settlement,
486 is forbidden ground, and Umm an-Nasaan may only be visited with
permission of H.H. The Ruler. The others, the small islands south
of Muharraq, Nebih Salih, Jezira and the Howar islands are free to
all visitors and a visit to them makes a change from drives around the
islands.

489 Transport in Bahrain includes both bus and taxi, the former are not
the luxurious affairs seen in Europe and England but have wooden
493 bodies built in Bahrain and attached to an imported chassis. Taxis,
however, are not too expensive if care is taken to pay the correct fare
which is recorded in a fare book that should be carried by every driver.
It is rumoured that taxis will soon carry meters, which will certainly
simplify matters, but till that happy day passengers who have complaints
to make about being over-charged should make them to the Traffic
Department of the State Police.

435 Petrol and oil are cheap in Bahrain, which is not surprising, and the
493 import tax on cars and motor cycles is only 10%, so that to own and run
a private car is cheaper than in England or the States, as many fortunate
651 people have discovered. Most makes of cars are obtainable in Bahrain,
garage facilities have increased and the improvement in the roads has
enabled English cars to be used with comfort.

492 The old-fashioned form of transport in Bahrain was the donkey.
It was used for every task, for bringing the produce of the country for
489 sale in the town, for pulling carts and for riding. The white Bahrain
donkeys used to be well known all over the Middle East and they were
exported from Bahrain to places as far distant as the East African
coast. Today buses are replacing donkeys, there are bus services
between most of the villages, though many of the young men prefer
to use bicycles. Lorries too have successfully competed with donkeys
and now carry most of the goods between the towns and villages, but
in the gardens and in the narrow country lanes one still meets many
donkeys though few of the fine white beasts for which the islands were
famous long ago. However, the donkey will never entirely die out,
for he has certain advantages over other methods of transport, he can
reproduce young donkeys, he can find his own way along small and narrow
tracks in the gardens and he produces manure, which is a valuable
commodity in Bahrain.

CHAPTER V

BAHRAIN'S OIL INDUSTRY

315 THE man who was chiefly responsible for the discovery of Bahrain's
471 oil resources was an Australian, Major Frank Holmes, who came to
Bahrain on behalf of the Eastern and General Syndicate, a British
prospecting company. Major Holmes, after drilling a number of
artesian wells and thus discovering something about the composition

315 471 of the ground below the surface of Bahrain, believed that oil was present in the islands in commercial quantities and so obtained from the Ruler, on December 2nd, 1925, a prospecting concession which was to run for two years. During this period Holmes tried to interest British oil companies in the petroleum possibilities of Bahrain, but their experts declared that there was no oil in Bahrain and that it would be a poor gamble to start operations in that country. Finally Major Holmes went to the States and on November 30th, 1927, an American corporation, the Eastern Gulf Company, acquired a two years option. After negotiations which involved the Foreign Office and the State Department, for Bahrain was a protected State, and after discussions between various important oil interests, the Eastern Gulf Company assigned its option over the Bahrain concession to the Standard Oil Company of California. On August 1st, 1930 the concession was assigned by Standard Oil to its fully owned subsidiary, the Bahrain Petroleum Company Ltd. (BAPCO), which was registered in Canada in order to give it the status of a British company. Such are the politics of oil that it had taken five years for an oil company to be formed to develop Bahrain's oil, and had it not been for the enterprise of an American company, which took up the concession after it had been refused by the British, the oil of Bahrain might never have been exploited.

315 322 Directly the concession was signed, surveying and drilling operations were commenced and in 1932 the first well "came in." This well can be seen immediately south of Awali and is still producing. By 1935 there were sixteen producing wells and six more drilling. It was then decided that the crude oil should be processed in Bahrain, and in the following year the first small distillation unit was erected and put into operation. A year later the capacity of the refinery was expanded to 25,000 barrels a day. The refinery was continually enlarged and improved so that finally it was able to process more crude than was forthcoming from the Bahrain field. A 12" pipeline was therefore laid from the Dammam field on the coast of Saudi Arabia to the refinery, a distance of 34 miles, of which 17 were under the sea making it the longest private pipeline of its kind in the world. Having expanded the refinery it became necessary to improve the shipping facilities to speed the export of oil products so a three mile jetty was constructed from Sitra Island to the deep water, at the head of which a four berth pier was built to add to the existing two-berth island loading wharf. Rows of pipes carry crude oil and refined products to the waiting ships while huge freight trailers carry drums for bulk package loading. Each month 70-80 ocean vessels are alongside the wharves removing some 4½ million barrels of bulk exports and 60,000 drums of refined products and asphalt. The drums are made in the Sitra drum plant, manned entirely by Bahrainis.

At present the activities of the company are carried out in four parts of Bahrain, at Awali, at the Jebal, at the Refinery and on Sitra Island.

At Awali are the offices and the homes of the European employees of BAPCO, while outside the fence is the Arab camp for the few Bahrainis who prefer to live there rather than in their own towns and villages. Near Awali's eastern gate is the Training School for Bahrainis, where something is done to equip them for higher posts in the company. This is a field of activity which the company is beginning to develop and it is very important that is should succeed. 361 874 466

South of Awali, in the desert around the Jebal ad-Dukhan, is the oil field, the *raison d'etre* of BAPCO, an unimpressive area with many little squares of cement decorated with taps and valves and surrounded by low fences, which are the oil wells, while here and there derricks mark the search for more oil which is always in progress. 315

After the Abadan Refinery the one on Bahrain is the largest in the Middle East and supplies large quantities of refined products to India, Pakistan, East Africa and other countries "East of Suez." During the day it would be difficult to describe the refinery as anything but a large and ugly mass of iron and steel, with the great Cat. Cracker rising above the squat silver tanks. The air is hot and dusty and in the summer the iron-work is so hot that to touch it raises blisters ; but in the evening the refinery takes on the appearance of a slightly shapeless but nevertheless well decorated Christmas Tree, covered in lights and set against a background of flares of burning gas which illuminate the sky like a lurid orange back-cloth. 382 439

The Sitra anchorage has at all times an appearance of feverish activity, it is being improved so that it will be possible to load ships and tankers round the clock. In order to do this the jetty is being floodlit with great arc lamps. [504]

On low-lying Sitra Island all that can be seen from the sea are the storage tanks, it is only on approaching nearer that the island itself becomes visible. The Tank Farm spreads across the middle of Sitra, and as it expands it threatens to cut the island in two. To the south of the Tank Farm is a large group of buildings from which a crashing sound is continually heard ; this is the Drum Plant. Further evidence of this is present in the thousands of newly painted drums that are piled in huge rows near the plant.

The oil industry is directed from the main office in Awali, where from air-conditioned coolness in the summer and air-conditioned warmth in the winter instructions go out to all parts of Bahrain where BAPCO has its installations. Bahrain is well situated for an oil industry. The oil wells are about eight miles from the Refinery, which itself is scarcely more than half that distance from the Pier and Tank Farm, while from Awali it is possible to see on a clear day both the Refinery and the Field. The radio-telephone and the aeroplane used in other Middle Eastern fields have no place in Bahrain where phones and cars are quite sufficent. 382 202

Of the 7,749 workers employed by BAPCO at the end of 1951, 4,937 were Bahrainis and 1,035 were British, American and other 464 382

464 Europeans. For the latter the company provides many amenities.
382 In the town of Awali there is a cinema, a club and other recreational
facilities. There is a Commissary for the supply of foods and goods
511 unobtainable elsewhere in Bahrain; a school for American and Europ-
466 ean children with qualified teachers and hospitals for the various nationalities employed by BAPCO. A cinema, swimming bath and mosque are also being constructed in the Arab Camp, and a swimming bath and cinema in the Indian and Pakistani camp at Rifaa. The company also maintains dispensaries in some of the villages and has built three schools for the Bahrain Government. There is cordial co-operation between the Bahrain Government and BAPCO in all fields of social service and although it may seem strange that an oil company should be encouraged to occupy itself with so many activities not directly connected with the production of oil, yet it is now recognised in the Middle East that it is an obligation of oil companies not only to work for their shareholders but also for the benefit of the people of the country from which they derive their profits.

471 In 1940 a Supplementary Agreement was signed between the Ruler
382 and the Bahrain Petroleum Company in which the latter received an extension to its concession including all lands, shoals, reefs, waters and submerged lands of "the present and future domains" of the Ruler of Bahrain.

315 It is a comparatively rare thing for people visiting Bahrain to see the actual oil which has made the Islands famous, gone are the days when to "strike oil" meant that a huge gusher of oil would leap skywards covering everything about it with what is termed, in the hackneyed phrase of the journalist, "black gold." Today the drilling of a well is normally a tidy process ; when oil is struck the drillers have complete control over its flow and quickly cap the well with a "Christmas Tree," the nickname for the mass of taps and valves which are placed over the well head. From the well the oil is piped to the Refinery and then to the storage tanks at Sitra. But in every part of its processing little is seen of the oil except by the workers in the laboratories.

133 The oil industry today is the most important factor in Bahrain's economy and is recognised as such by the Government and the people of the country

CHAPTER VI

JEWELS OF THE DEEP

228 Pearl diving is probably the oldest industry in Bahrain and has been the reason why an otherwise small and comparatively unproductive group of islands has been the scene of so many bitter wars and has been over-run by so many invading armies. From earliest times Bahrain has been famous for its pearls ; in an Assyrian inscription of some 2000 B.C. a parcel of "fish eyes" from Dilmun is believed to be

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the first reference to the pearls of Bahrain. Tylos, the classical name for Bahrain, was stated by Pliny to be "famous for the vast number of its pearls." In more recent years the merchant Suliman, an Arab traveller of the 9th century, mentions the pearl fisheries of Bahrain, while in the 10th century we have the first description of the actual methods of diving left by a certain Abu Zaid Hassan. From an examination of his description it can be seen how little the methods of diving have changed during the past 1000 years.

Many later travellers and geographers have been interested by the pearl fisheries ; the famous geographer Idrisi, after mentioning the political state of affairs describes the method of diving ; Bakri in 1273, Abu'l Fida in the early 14th century and Ibn Batuta all mention the pearl fisheries. In 1485 Duarte Barbosa, a Portuguese explorer, says of Barem (Bahrain) "Around it grows much seed pearl, also large pearls of good quality. The merchants of the island itself fish for these pearls, and have therefrom great profits."

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At the turn of the 16th century the Portuguese had firmly established themselves in India and were expanding into the Persian Gulf. In 1514 Don Albuquerque, Governor of India, visited Bahrain and noted with envy its pearl fisheries, which he said were superior to those elsewhere in the Gulf, and on his return to Hormuz, in the following year, he ordered from Bahrain many pearls which were required by the King of Portugal for the "pontifical of Our Lady." It is probable that the subsequent seizure of Bahrain by the Portuguse in 1522 was due to the wealth of the pearl traders, for the Portuguese were firm believers in monopolies and wished to ensure their complete control over the pearl industry. This is confirmed by a Dutch traveller who said, in 1598, that "The King of Portugal hath also his factor in Bahrain, that stayeth there only for the fishing of pearls."

In the 17th and 18th centuries the pearl fisheries became better known to Europeans, and also to Arabs, for it was the presence of the pearl fisheries of Bahrain that attracted the al-Khalifah from Kuwait, first to Zubara and then, after their victory over the Persians, to Bahrain. Although in the 19th century the British became politically supreme in the Persian Gulf they did not interfere in the pearl industry, but on the contrary they helped to preserve the rule that only the inhabitants of those countries bordering on the Gulf could fish on the pearl banks. Recent laws passed in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia forbidding the use of diving suits have also been aimed at giving all an equal chance to fish without the richer merchants gaining an unfair advantage by the use of mechanical equipment.

The origin of the pearl has fascinated many peoples, but it is surely the Arabs who have the most colourful stories about its origin. Shaikh Nabhani in his *Tarikh al-Jazirat al-Arabiya* quotes the following as being a local tradition, although he rejects it as baseless. "In the spring the pearl shells rise to the surface of the sea and when it rains or when there is a heavy dew the oyster swallows one or more drops of water which then turn into pearls." Nabhani does, however, believe the

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228 story that Bahrain pearls are superior in colour to all others because of the presence in the seas around Bahrain of numerous fresh-water springs. In fact the real origin of the pearl inspires no romance, it is the process by which the pearl shell rids itself of an unwelcome intruder. The oyster, when opening to obtain food, often admits small particles of sand or some other substance which irritate its soft flesh, the shell therefore covers the intruder with a secretion that forms a smooth coat of nacre. Once this process has started it continues, more and more layers are built up until the process is stopped by the pearl being removed from its shell or when some accident happens to it. If a pearl is cut in half and examined under the microscope the layers of the nacre can clearly be seen.

221 The "Gaus al-Kabir" or main diving season takes place from June
228 to early in October, but before and after the season there is the "Gaus al-Bard" or cold diving season, the duration of which is determined by weather conditions, but which is not recognised as the diving season *par excellence*. In former days the departure of the Bahrain fleet for the pearl banks was the occasion of great excitement, and with drums playing and small boys cheering the boats would sail away from Muharraq. After being joined by boats from other coastal towns and villages the fleet would proceed to the pearl banks, where each boat would choose its own anchorage and prepare for diving.

501 Formerly the boat built especially for pearl diving was the sambuq
228 (see Chapter VII), but today the most usual boat is the jalibut, while many very small boats with crews of a dozen men go out to the banks. All pearlers are equipped with special oars with square blades, and on arriving at the banks these are tied so that they project over the water.
228 At each oar two ropes are thrown overboard, one attached to a stone or metal weight and the other to a net bag, although the bag is sometimes hung round the diver's neck. The divers then strip to the buff, or content themselves with a narrow loin cloth, they put on nose clips of bone or tortoise-shell and protect their fingers with leather guards. Putting their feet in a loop in the weighted rope, the divers are swiftly let down each by his Saib or puller, who remains on deck holding the ropes with the careful hand of a fisherman, but more is at stake than a trout or a salmon, for if the Saib fails to hoist the diver to the surface directly he feels his pull on the rope, the diver's life is in danger. When the diver reaches the sea-bed the weighted rope is pulled up while the diver keeps hold on the second rope. While on the sea-bed the diver hacks off with a small knife as many pearl shells as he can, usually collecting about ten shells in the minute and a half he spends below the surface. When exhausted he tugs sharply at the rope and is hauled to the surface. Twelve fathoms is about the maximum depth to which he dives, and it is easy to picture the frantic rush at this depth to collect the necessary shells. On coming to the surface the diver hangs, resting on the weighted rope, while the Saib tips the bag of shells on to the deck. The rest periods vary with the weather. When it is cold the divers spend two thirds of the time resting on the deck of the

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boat, sucking cigarettes or sipping bitter Arab coffee, but when the water is warmer a longer period is spent in the sea. Food is not eaten during the diving hours as it is considered bad for the diver's health.

The splash and swirl of the blue waters of the Gulf, often as smooth and clear as glass, the glistening bodies of the sun-burnt divers, the deep-throated chanting of the Saibs and the mounting piles of dark encrusted shells, are sights and sounds never to be forgotten. From time to time the cabin boy, who is found on each boat, collects the shells in sacks and piles them along the sides of the boat. As the sun sets the crew eat their light meal of dates, fish, bread and coffee and then sink down with pleasure into deep sleep along the decks. Then all that there is to disturb the silence of the night is the crackling of the fire burning on the portable mud hearth, the creaking of ropes and the splash caused by the line of the midnight fishermen catching to-morrow's meal.

Next morning the members of the crew are up early and gather around the heaps of shells which are more easily opened after having been left in the night-air, and with deft flicks of little curved knives they examine the oyster's meat so that not even the smallest seed pearl is missed. The despoiled shells are tossed aside, to be collected later and thrown back into the sea. As the pearls are found, their finders stick them between their toes until they have collected a number, which are then handed to the nakhuda or captain. The latter stores them in a great wooden chest, studded with brass nails after tying them in small squares of red cloth, that being the colour which is believed to show pearls to their best advantage. When all the shells have been opened the remains are thrown overboard, the decks swabbed down and the day's diving commences.

From time to time boats return to Bahrain to collect fresh provisions and for the medical treatment of the crew. Fresh water, surprisingly enough, is less of a problem, for near many of the pearl banks there are submarine fresh water springs, some of which have been controlled by pipes affixed by the Bahrain Government. The monotony of the diver's day is also broken by the visits of "Tawawith," pearl buyers, who come out in launches to the banks to offer ready cash for their purchases, and by visits of hospital and police launches from Bahrain. The end of the diving season, as well as the date of its commencement, is laid down by the annual proclamation of the Bahrain Government. [312] [437] [656]

Despite the tales of travellers, sharks and saw-fish are not a very great menace to divers, they are in fact a rarity and for many years no diver has been attacked by either fish. The blue jelly-fish is more feared than either, for with its long tentacles it can give a most unpleasant sting, and it is to combat it that in the jelly-fish season many divers wear a form of cotton combinations covering all parts of the body except hands and eyes. The detrimental effect of diving on the men's health is often exaggerated, and with the better diet and medical treatment the divers of today are a healthy set of men and compare favourably with workers in other industries. [136]

435 The financing of a pearl boat is a complicated affair. Formerly
228 most boats were owned by their captains, but today the majority of the larger boats belong to land merchants. In cases where boats belong to captains but are financed by land merchants, the latter make a profit of about 10%, but in cases where the merchants both own and provision the boats they receive 20% of the profits. After deducting costs, the remainder of the profit is shared in fixed proportions, the nakhuda receiving five parts, the diver two and the Saib one.

437 When the nakhuda sells the catch he must always be accompanied
228 by two members of the crew, to see fair play. Sales are carried out in an unusual way. If the nakhuda and the purchaser or broker do not want the audience to know the amounts offered for the pearls, and as the sales take place in the quarter of the pearl brokers there are always interested bystanders, they spread a cloth over their hands and bargain by a sort of deaf and dumb language. Once they have agreed on the price the nakhuda must obtain the consent of the two witnesses before the sale is considered valid. The value of the pearls is established in
804 a special way. In the case of ordinary pearls, they are collected in
435 great numbers, sorted for size by a set of graded sieves, and each group is weighed and counted and their value in "chows," a form of measure-
228 ment derived from the weight of the pearls, is discovered from a book printed for the purpose. Once a pearl or pearls have been assessed at so many chows, the question of the value per chow is settled by bargaining, the price per chow depending on the average shape, texture and colour in the case of bunches of pearls or in single pearls. In the case of pairs of pearls their value depends greatly on how well they are matched. Seed pearls, the smallest form of pearls, are sold entirely by weight, while a single pearl has been known to sell for as much as £15,000, as in the case of the Bahrain pearl which was eventually bought by a well known American lady.

228 It is very difficult to estimate the value of the Bahrain catch in past years, the figure for 1833 was estimated at £240,000, £400,000 in
433 1835 and £303,941 in 1896. In more recent years the Bahrain Government has given official figures which outline the history of the industry during the past quarter of a century. In 1833 it was also said that there were 1,500 boats leaving Bahrain annually for the pearl banks, and in 1896, 900. The largest number of Bahrain pearling boats has been given as 2,000 but this figure is probably an exaggeration. That the industry has declined is proved by the figures, in 1930, 509 boats manned by 19,300 men found pearls worth Rs. 2,125,000, while in 1948 there were only 83 boats with a crew of 2,000 and finding a catch worth Rs. 855,000. Although the numbers of boats and divers decreased by about 6 times and 9 times respectively it is noticeable that the catch only decreased in value by 2½ times and in 1950 the catch was worth Rs. 1,650,000, more than half of the 1930 figure.

228 The reason for the decline in the industry, which started in 1930,
179 was the severe trade depression which began in that year and which
433 reduced the wealth of those in Europe who were in the habit of buying

pearls, and also the large scale manufacture of cultured pearls in 228
Japan. It was indeed lucky for Bahrain that oil was found in 1932, 178
or else she would have seen her principal industry slowly decline with
nothing with which to replace it. Once the oil industry was established, 433
however, it in its turn served to precipitate the decay of the older
industry by providing employment with better conditions and higher
pay than were to be found on the pearl banks. The decline had
also been unwittingly aided by the reforms of the late Ruler, Shaikh 452
Hamed, who, on becoming Deputy Ruler in 1923, found the working 228
conditions of the industry in a shocking state. The pearl banks
were productive and much money was being made but little of it 178
went to the divers, many of whom had involved themselves in a form 466
of financial slavery to the nakhudas. Divers were given advances
by the captains before the season, to provide for their families while
they were away at sea, and at the end of the season, while the sales
of the pearls, were being carried out. The eventual result was that the
captains gave advances far in excess of the money due to the divers at
the end of the season and to repay these loans the divers were forced
to work for the same captain in the following season. But each year
the advances were again in excess of the divers' earnings and so they
got deeper and deeper into debt to the captains. At the same time
the latter were indebted to shore merchants for supplies, for which
they were charged high rates of interest, although this was contrary
to the Sheria Law. The captains passed this interest on to the divers,
who thus paid a minimum of 50% of their original debt each year.
Diving debts were bequeathed, sons of divers whose fathers died owing
money to captains were forced to work for them, and a diver, if he
became too old to work, was only released from diving if he was replaced
by his son or some other relation. In addition to this, indebted divers
were often made to work on land for their creditors, or were handed
over as workers to merchants to whom the nakhuda owed money.

Shaikh Hamed was determined to abolish all these practices and 228
was supported by some of the more progressive Arabs and the Shiite 178
and Sunni judges, who disapproved of the whole system. Amongst
the bitterest opponents of the reforms were the divers themselves who 452
were persuaded by the nakhudas and merchants into believing that
they were going to lose by them. The reforms were, however, introduced 185
and resulted in fixed advances, the amounts of which were announced
annually by proclamation, the restriction of interest on
advances, and all advances in excess of the legal amounts to be unreclaimable
in court. The divers were also entitled to seek other work
on the condition that they repaid a certain proportion of their diving
debt each year. Many thousands of debts were reduced and the [698]
special diving court, which had favoured the captains and merchants,
was abolished and all diving cases were heard by the ordinary courts.
Finally, the debts of a diver died with him and could not be inherited
by his heirs. The result of these reforms was that the industry,
although reduced in size was put on a much sounder footing and its
workers were not forced to dive but did so because they wanted to.

228 The Bahrain Government has tried hard to encourage the diving
656 industry, by the remittance of the registration fees on diving boats,
178 by customs concessions and by other means, but it is certain that the
industry will never return to its palmy days when so many of the
people of Bahrain were connected with it or depended on it.

Visitors to the pearl banks are advised to set out at about midnight
228 from Bahrain. Launches can be hired in Manama or Muharraq and
431 if they leave at twelve midnight, the banks will be reached at two or
609 three in the morning. The remainder of the night can be spent lying at
anchor and in the early morning the opening of the shells can be watched, followed by the preparations for the day's work and the actual diving. The divers have no objection to being photographed at their work and welcome foreigners on board their boats, they do, however, appreciate a present from visitors and it is a good plan to take out some fresh dates or other fruit, for the boats, particularly at the end of the season, are usually low in fresh provisions and such a gift is very welcome.

CHAPTER VII

LOCAL INDUSTRIES

THE POTTERIES

323 Pearling is not the only ancient industry in Bahrain, for the presence
in many parts of the islands of pottery sherds indicates that pottery
[438] has been made here for many centuries. Today this industry is restricted to the village of Aali whose inhabitants work in the same way as did their forefathers, scorning modern innovations.

[472] From the hills around Rifaa the clay is brought to Aali; brown
and red clay for the coarser objects and white clay for finer work. The raw clay is beaten and then mixed with water until it is ready for throwing by the younger members of the potter's family, for each pottery is a separate family concern. All the processes which go into the making of pottery take place in small sheds, in each one a potter can be seen at work, his feet in a pit working the wheel which is on a level with his waist. Rapidly he flings lumps of clay on to the spinning wheel and with deft fingers works the shapeless mud into graceful jars, bowls and other utensils. When each piece is completed it is
set in the sun to dry before being taken to the oven. Most of the ovens
[172] are built in the prehistoric tumuli south of the village, which have been
excavated. A hole is made in the roof of the tomb and another at the side; in the former the objects to be baked are placed and the latter is filled with firewood. When the fires are lit the tombs become miniature volcanoes with thick smoke belching from their peaks, slowly the fires die down, the smoke clears and the baked pottery is removed and the ovens are prepared for the next baking.

The products of Aali are simple in the extreme, pots, bowls, water 323
jars and dishes, utensils which have always been used by the people
of Bahrain and which still find a ready market though the increased
prosperity of the people enables them to buy cheap imported goods.
It is not necessary to go to Aali itself to see the products of the pot- [443]
teries for at the Suq al-Araba in Manama on Wednesday mornings and
at the Suq al-Khamis market on Thursday mornings the people of
Aali bring their goods for sale.

At Aali the photographer will find many subjects for his camera. The potters in their workshops with the sun shining on the damp yellow clay, the symmetrical stacks of jars drying in the sun, the small boys in bright clothes running up and down the steep sides of the tumuli with objects to be baked and finally the removal of the finished articles, all these scenes provide fascinating pictures.

NURA (LIME)

Aali, as well as being the centre of the Bahrain pottery industry, 317
is the principal place where lime is produced. Stone for the purpose 438
is hewn from the ground in many parts of Bahrain, especially near
Rifaa, and is taken in lorries or in donkey carts to Aali. Here the blocks
of limestone are arranged on layers of wood, usually date palm trunks,
and the wood is then fired. Men with large wooden flails stand round [461]
the piles of lime-stone and beat it into powder, chanting as they work
and timing the singing to the down strokes of the threshers. When
the lime becomes fine powder it is sieved and then placed in sacks.
The produce of Aali commands a ready sale, for all the white-wash [339]
used in Bahrain is made there or in the neighbourhood and with the
present building activities the people of the country have their work
cut out to supply the local demand.

There is also in Bahrain a lime factory, owned by a member of the Ruling Family, where lime is produced by modern methods.

FISHING

Fish and fish oil are used for many purposes in Bahrain. The former 262
is one of the staple items of food among the poorer classes, it is used 237
for manure in gardens and for feeding cows and donkeys. Fish oil
is used for oiling wooden boats to make them seaworthy. The fact 501
that Bahrain cows are fed on fish, together with dates, date stones,
lucerne and bran, leads people to expect that the local milk will taste
unusual. This is not true despite the reports of journalists, who hear
about the fishy diet without tasting the milk and describe its flavour as
unpleasant. Milk from Bahrain cows, if they receive a balanced diet,
is unusually good and has a higher average fat content than the milk
of ordinary English cows. The use of fish oil on the boats along the
shore has little to commend itself to visitors, the smell is extremely
disagreeable and drives the people who live in houses near the sea to
shut all their windows when the boats are being treated.

226 There are many different ways of fishing in Bahrain. Most of the fish is caught in "hadhra", fish traps built from palm branches. From the air these traps are a conspicuous feature in the Persian Gulf, looking like huge arrow-heads with two long wings and a small circular head set along the shore and pointing out to sea. On closer inspection it can be seen that the sides of the arrow consist of fences built of date branches fastened into the ground and tied with rope, these lead to a circular enclosure at the end of the trap. The principle is simple ; as the tide comes in the fish approach the shore, when the tide recedes it carries them into the arms of the trap and eventually into the trap itself where they are left flapping about in the shallow water. The owner of [423] the trap then comes from the shore and collects the catch. The sites of the traps are very valuable and are registered in the Land Department. Some sites have been sold for as much as 30,000 rupees. Poaching fish in the area of a fish trap is regarded as a serious offence.

Another type of fish trap is like a giant lobster pot, made from wire and as much as eight feet in diameter. This is filled with ground bait, the fish enter it through a narrow funnel in its side and once there they are unable to escape. Fish of many sizes and varieties are caught in these traps, which can be seen on the shore along the Muharraq water front.

Nets of various kinds are used including circular throwing nets and drifters. The sight of an experienced net thrower is always fascinating and fishermen using this form of net can often be seen in the shallow seas to the south of the Manama-Muharraq Causeway. Drifting nets with pieces of date palm bark in place of corks are also popular and are used by the villagers on the coast. Fishing with hook and line is practised mostly by sporting amateurs and those who fish for amusement off the Causeway and elsewhere, The local fishermen depend mainly on traps, nets and Sim.

Sim, which literally means "poison," is the seed of the Persian Lilac tree and is much used in Bahrain during the hot weather. The seed, when dried, is pounded up into a mixture of dead crabs, small fish and paste which serves as bait. The fishermen choose a calm warm day when the tide is coming in and sprinkle the mixture on shallow water so that it will drift over the area where they expect to find fish. After a short wait small fish appear flapping about on the surface, apparently chasing their tails or else diving steeply. Soon the larger fish appear, behaving in the same manner. The fishermen then slip into the sea and set about catching the fish, which is by no means easy, for though the fish are doped they are still able to elude the grasping hands of the fishermen. Sometimes very big hauls of fish are caught in this manner. The effects of the drug are not lasting and the fish who have eluded the fishermen recover and swim away. Although Sim has a stupifying effect on fish it does no harm to people who eat them. Much of the fish which is sold in the markets of Manama, Muharraq and Hedd has been caught in this way.

Some twenty years ago a Danish scientific expedition paid two visits 114
to the Persian Gulf to report on the fish found in it. They discovered 136
that there were over 400 species.

AGRICULTURE

Parts of Bahrain have always been fertile and very probably in 311
ancient times more land was under cultivation than is being used today.
The gardens of Bahrain are mentioned by many ancient visitors to the 361
islands. The captains of Alexander's ships described Tylos, the ancient name of Bahrain, as "well-wooded and productive" while Idrisi, writing in the 12th century, says that the "capital of Awal (Bahrain Island) is Bahrain; this is a town well populated whose environs are fertile and produce corn and dates in abundance." It could be that the capital of Bahrain mentioned by Idrisi was Bilad al-Qadim, the description would seem to imply this.

Formerly the Bahrain gardens were irrigated from natural springs 312
and surface wells, the water either flowing from the springs into the gardens or being lifted from wells to the level of the land by various forms of water scoops. The most commonly used is the Shaduf. A man stands near the edge of the well and draws up the water in a sheep skin bag attached by ropes to a counter-balanced pole. In larger wells donkeys or oxen are used, walking endlessly up and down a ramp pulling the water to the surface from where it runs down into irrigation channels. As the rainfall in Bahrain is almost negligible all agriculture depends upon irrigation.

In the 20's and 30's Major Frank Holmes drilled many artesian wells in Bahrain which completely changed Bahrain's system of irrigation. By introducing these wells into the island Major Holmes 312
did much to increase the area of land which could be cultivated, but
artesian wells turned out to be a mixed blessing, for in the following 647
years so many wells were drilled that the water head went down and 653
some of the gardens in the south of Bahrain dried up. Today this problem is being met by a government Water Committee which decides whether and under what conditions new wells may be drilled, it tries to ensure that the water resources of the islands are maintained at their present level or even increased by the utilisation of the many large springs of fresh water which lie under the sea around the shores of Bahrain.

The two commonest crops in Bahrain are dates and lucerne (alfalfa). 241
the latter is often grown in the shade of the date palms where its vivid greenness provides a contrast to the brown and grey-green of the date palms. There is little good fruit in Bahrain although a certain number of fruit trees are cultivated, these include citrus, tamarind, pomegranate, fig, guava, terminalia (indian almond) mango, bananas, grapes and kanard (a small apple-like fruit). European vegetables are grown in the cold weather and other ground crops include sweet potatoes, melons, tomatoes, ladies fingers, egg plants, onions, garlic and pumpkins.

241 Almost all the cultivators are Baharna or Hassawis, who are of the
565 Shiite sect, descendants of Baharna who emigrated to Arabia. The
461 Sunni Arabs do not work in the gardens. The people living in the
villages which are scattered among the date gardens originally earned
their livelihood entirely by working in the gardens; now many of them
are employed by the oil company or in Manama. During the date
[221] picking season, which in many ways resembles the hop picking season
in England, temporary villages of palm branch huts spring up among
the date gardens when people from other parts of Bahrain come to
pick the crop.

565 The village people are the aboriginal inhabitants of the country and in the past they suffered much during the many invasions of Bahrain when their homes, gardens and water channels were destroyed and even in times of peace they were regarded as milch cows, whose wealth was extracted by their rulers. But in recent times their position has changed, they are more prosperous than they used to be and are on terms of equality with their neighbours.

BOAT BUILDING

174 It is claimed by some authorities on Middle Eastern history that the Phoenicians originated in Bahrain and sailed their craft up the Gulf, which then extended much farther northwards than it does today and following the Euphrates to the point where the river is nearest to the Syrian coast, they landed and settled there. This may or may not be true but there is no doubt that the people of Bahrain have been sailors for at least as many centuries as the pearl industry has been in existence and their stitched boats not only sailed the Persian Gulf but entered the Indian Ocean.

501
396 Most of Bahrain's boats were in former days employed as pearlers, and although the Kuwait shipyards built the largest craft it was natural that Bahrain, nearer the Indian source of timber and itself the centre of the pearling industry, should have its own yards. It should also be remembered that Kuwait is a comparatively modern town, having been founded early in the 18th century, before which date it did not attain importance as a harbour for north-east Arabia.

Today most of the boat building is carried on in Muharraq, although there are some yards at the western end of Manama. In former days, before iron nails were obtainable, Arab boats were not nailed but stitched together, with a giant needle and cord as thread, yet these boats of such fragile construction were able to weather the heaviest gales that swept the Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

In recent years launches have been made in greater numbers than sailing boats, so builders have inclined to specialise in the construction of those boats to which engines can best be fitted. For this reason many "jalibuts" have been built, they can be identified by their vertical bow and the straightness of the keel. The origin of this name is doubtful and many suggestions have been made to explain it. Possibly the most logical is that of H. R. P. Dickson, who says in his *The Arab of the Desert* that the name is derived from the Indian boat called "Gallevat" which is in turn derived from the Portuguese "Galeote" or Galley. 501 396

The type of craft most used for pearling in Bahrain is the Sambuq, which has a long finely curved bow and a square stern. It has two masts and is usually fully decked. Another boat of the same type is the Shu'ai, which only differs from the Sambuq in the shape of the stem piece. A second boat with Portuguese connections is the Baghala, a large craft with a comparatively short curved stem-piece. The Baghala has a distinctive square stern set with windows, which, although often false, give the stern the appearance of an old fashioned European man-of-war. The largest boat now being built is the Boom, which can be identified by its long straight stem-piece and its stern, set about 10° from the vertical.

Boats are not built on the scale of former days, for the decline of the pearling industry and the development of the fast launch have reduced the demand for the large old-fashioned sailing boats. Launches need a smaller crew, they are more useful for work between steamers and the shore and over short distances, and are now in many other ways a more satisfactory investment than sailing boats.

Many small types of boats are used around the shores of Bahrain for fishing and for carrying passengers between the islands. Some of these are built like miniature sambuq, while others have the vertical bow of the jalibut. There is also the huri, a primitive canoe hollowed out of the trunk of a tree and imported from Africa for use as a ship's dinghy. An entirely local product is the huwairiyah, a craft built of date stems tightly tied together with date fibre and soaked in fish oil. These little boats, which if well made are entirely water-proof, can carry a man or two boys and are used for fishing and ferrying.

A question that always confuses visitors to Bahrain is the word "dhow"; this name, originally unknown to the Arabs, is used by Europeans to include all Persian Gulf sailing boats, and has become so general that Arabs, finding the word useful, are now beginning to use it themselves.

The craftsmen who make the boats of Bahrain have an interesting sideline, they make perfect miniature models of the large sailing boats, not only of the ones at present in use but also of the obsolete types, and these can be purchased from them and make interesting ornaments in the house or souvenirs of Bahrain. [523]

JUS

"Jus," the Arabic for gypsum, has always been used for building purposes in Bahrain; the pre-historic tombs are lined with it and it was used for the construction of the 10th century mosque at the Suq al-Khamis. It is found in slabs below the ground and is collected in many places in Bahrain, in Lozi, from the desert north of Awali and from the Howar Islands. The gypsum is often prepared on the spot where it 316 339

316 339 is quarried, lorry loads of wood are brought out, and, as in the manufacture of lime, layers of gypsum are interspersed with layers of wood and the pile fired. The slabs of gypsum are then removed and beaten into a fine powder which, when mixed with water, acts like cement. It has the advantage of being quick setting and is still used by those who cannot afford to buy imported cement.

WEAVING

288 438 291 [697] Weaving is carried on in some of the villages of Bahrain, in Abu Saiba, south of the Budaiya Road and elsewhere. "Awzars," simple garments worn by the villagers around their waists in the summer, are woven from imported cotton, while in many coastal villages the sailors spend the winters weaving sail-cloth. The prisoners on Jidda Island are also employed in weaving, on imported Irish looms, but their activities can hardly be classed as a local industry.

CHAPTER VIII

THE ANTIQUITIES OF BAHRAIN

THE WORLD'S LARGEST GRAVEYARD

172 764 THE tumuli of Bahrain have never been counted, but their number has been estimated at 50,000. In these tumuli Bahrain possesses one of the unsolved mysteries of archaeology, for despite the numerous expeditions that have been made to discover their origin, this is still in dispute.

There are three groups of tumuli in Bahrain. The largest group is that which lies on the plain between Aali and the Rifaas. The second group is to the far north of Bahrain, on each side of the Manama-Budaiya Road between Jidhafs and Diraz. The third group, consisting of a few dozen graves, is in the clearing to the north of the Suq al-Khamis Mosque.

The first group of tombs is daily passed by hundreds of people travelling between Manama and Awali, but the best examples of tumuli in this group are not along the main road but are near the village of Aali. These mounds are the largest in Bahrain and while some of them are used by the villagers for baking their pottery, the majority are just as they were left after their opening by various archaeologists. Most of these tombs face south-west and P. B. Cornwall[1] has suggested that the reason for this is that the builders of the mounds worshipped the Evening Star, Venus, which at sunset lies to the south-west. The majority of the tumuli have two storeys and, in the chamber tombs, there are niches cut into the sides of the passages. The sides and roofs of the graves themselves are of local stone and were originally covered with a layer of gypsum. Some of the tumuli are surrounded by low walls of mud and gravel. Finds in these tumuli have included the bones of men and animals, ivory statues, pieces of circular boxes, golden ornaments and earthenware vessels decorated with black stripes.

There is little agreement among the experts as to the origin and dating of these burials and each has drawn his own deductions from the

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The North Wall of the Portuguese Fort. *Photo : Sir Charles Belgrave.*

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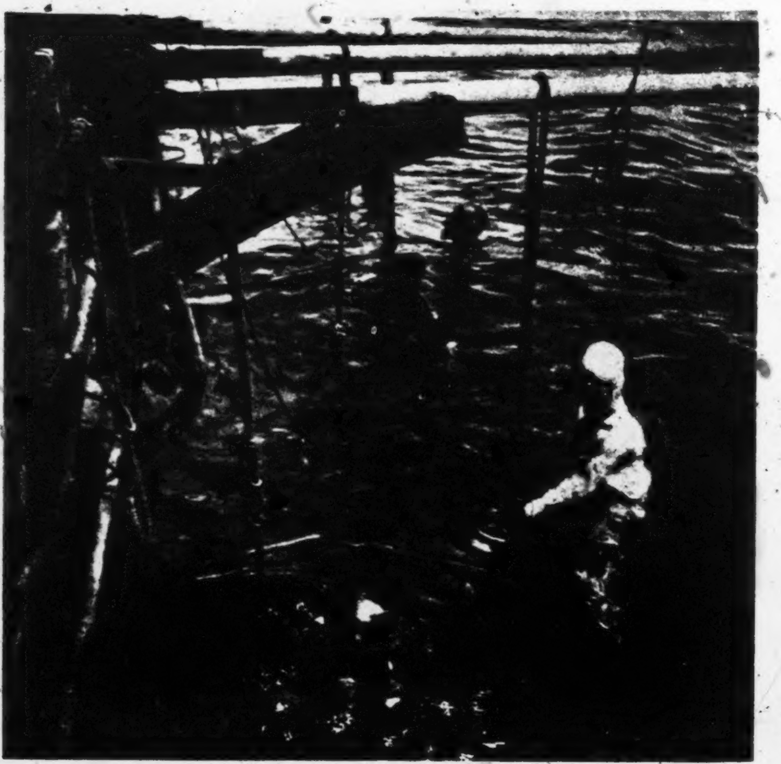

Divers at work. To the right a diver can be seen wearing a cotton garment as a protection against jelly-fish. *Photo : Sir Charles Belgrave.*

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1958 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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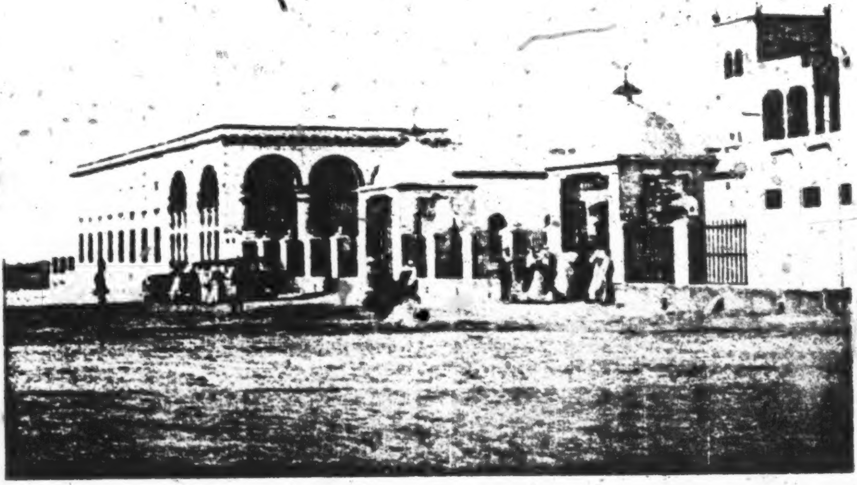

The Ruler's Palace at Rifaa al-Gharbi. Photo : National Art Studio.

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An Aali potter making jar tops.

A hunting falcon on the hand of one of the Ruler's retainers. Photo . Sir Charles Belgrove.

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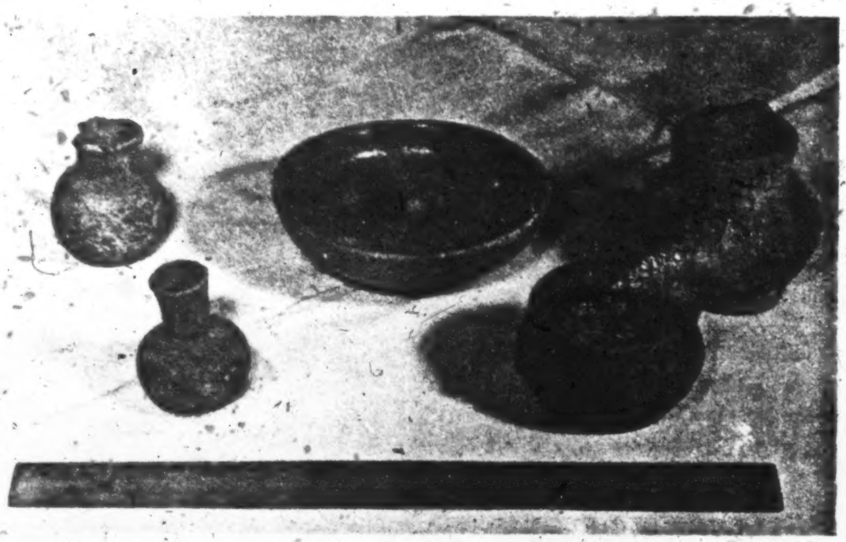

A bowl and some jars found in a tumulus on the Budeiya Road. *Photo : General Stores*

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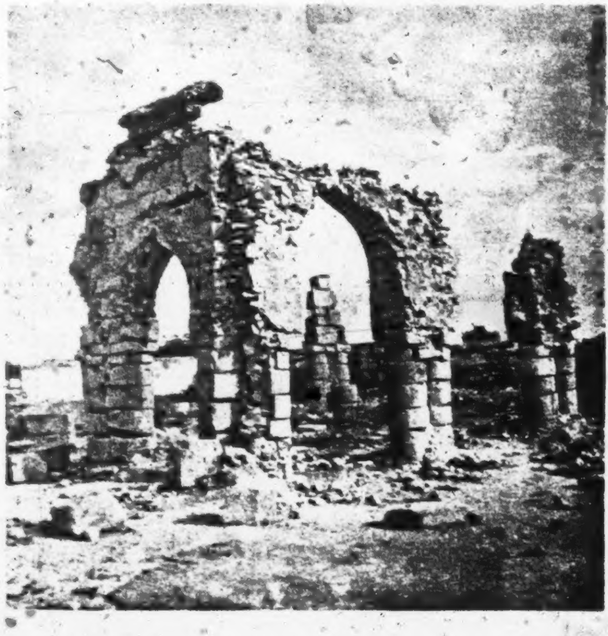

The Ruins of the Suq al-Khamis Mosque. *Photo : The Author.*

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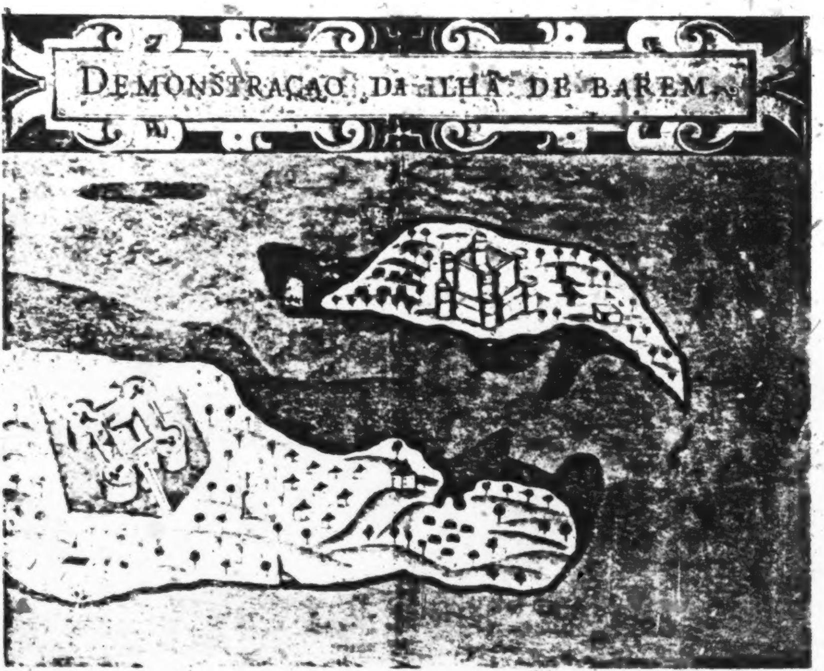
DEMONSTRAÇAO DA ILHA DE BAREM

North Bahrain in 1635. A map taken from a Portuguese book on India (see *Chapter VIII*).

Photo : Courtesy of Royal Egyptian Geographical Society.

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Bahrain State Police, Mounted Section.

Photo : K. P. Naray

finds that have been made. Mackay, who opened 34 tumuli in 1925, believed that they were the work of nomads who brought their dead from the mainland of Arabia. He gives as proof for this theory the fact that the pottery he found was round-bottomed, indicating that it was used in sandy country, and also the finding of ostrich eggs. After a study of the bronze objects and taking into consideration other finds Mackay considered that the tombs dated from between 1500 and 1200 B.C.

Cornwall also believes that the Aali tombs date from the second millennium B.C.[3] and holds to the belief that the ancient "Dilmun" of cuneiform inscriptions was the Bahrain Island of to-day. Dr. W. F. Albright, who has also studied some of the finds from these tombs, places them in the first half of the second millenium B.C.

Inscriptions are of particular help to archaeologists but only one cuneiform inscription has been discovered in Bahrain, the stone slab found by Captain Durand[4] and described in Part II. This is the only cuneiform and indeed the only pre-Islamic inscription that has been found in Bahrain.

Proceeding from Manama to Budaiya the road passes through the village of Jidhafs, and beyond it through some more tumuli. Many of these mounds are also of some size and there are a number of interesting specimens which have been opened, disclosing the complex interiors and the protecting walls built from large blocks of stone. In each of these tombs there were a number of burials, in some the skeletons lay at full length, in others they were in a crouching position. Finds in these tombs also included glass and pottery, jewellery, household implements and objects carved from ivory and bone.

Mackay, who also opened some of these tombs, dates them from the third century B.C., while P. B. Cornwall believes that they were built during the Sassanid period (226-640 A.D.). It is known that the Persians seized Bahrain during the reign of Shapur II, following raids by the Arab inhabitants on the Persian coast ; Shapur reigned from 300—325 A.D.

These two views are very different, but there is yet a third divergent view about these same tumuli. While the Bahrain Government was building a new road in this area it also opened some tumuli and the contents, which included ivory, glass, stone and pottery, were sent to the British Museum for identification. Their verdict was that beads found in the tumuli were a mixture of Arab and pre-historic work ; that the bronze objects were of Sassanid origin ; that a bronze bust was of the second to fifth century A.D.; and that a granite pot, with legs, decorated with oblique lines and circles in bands, was of very early date, possibly 2500 B.C. or even prehistoric. The Museum considered that the tombs were probably built between the sixth and eighth century A.D., which was the date of Islamic pottery found in them, and the experts explained the presence of such a mixture of objects by the fact that excavated material has always been valued throughout the Middle East and was often used by its finders.

172 764 The tumuli on the Budaiya road are therefore as interesting as those to the south, in the Aali group, and are well worth a visit. Also on the north side of the road is a large mound believed to have been a temple of some sort; this can be distinguished by its large rooms and high protecting wall.

The third and smallest group of tombs is the group to the north of the Suq al-Khamis Mosque. While no detailed study has been made of these tumuli, the Manama Municipality, while collecting sand in this area, unearthed a tomb containing a small stone bowl with a simple circular design around the rim. According to the British Museum, this bowl dated from about 2500 B.C. and so it would seem that it has some connection with the granite bowl found near the Budaiya Road.

THE SUQ AL-KHAMIS MOSQUE AND BILAD AL-QADIM

172 778 346 The oldest existing Moslem building in Bahrain and one of the most ancient Islamic relics in the Persian Gulf is the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, situated in the centre of the clearing about three miles from Manama on the road to Awali. Although its unusual twin minarets serve to identify it to the visitor, they are of comparatively recent construction and the ruined columns and walls within the low wall are all that remain of the ancient structure.

For many years the mosque has been slowly decaying, but in 1950 the Bahrain Government carried out some restoration work and the blocks and columns which for many years had lain in the sand were restored to their original position, the floor was cleared of the scrub growing there and it is now possible to obtain a better idea of the original shape and appearance of the mosque. Its former importance is shown by its careful construction from heavy columns and blocks hewn from Bahrain stone. There are few other ancient mosques in Bahrain which have been built with such care, most of them are simple erections of wood and mud, closely resembling the typical open mosques found, to this day, in Saudi Arabia.

The Suq al-Khamis Mosque differs from these other mosques in that it is of the more advanced courtyard type. The mosque itself is surrounded by an outer wall which was originally 27 by 30 yards but which is now slightly smaller. The interior of the mosque consists of three naves on each side of a central courtyard, the columns of the naves, which have been replaced by the Bahrain Government, are built from drum-shaped stones 1 ft. by 2 ft. and joined together with mortar. The pillar facades of the courtyard are still standing as they were built by the makers of the mosque. The Qibla (west) wall consists of broad pillars with half-column profiles and, according to Diez,[5] the strengthening wall of ragstone that can be seen at the base of the pillars and colums of the courtyard was erected when the mosque was rebuilt in the fifteenth century. The side walls of the courtyard are formed from double columns and the entrance or east wall of single columns. An interesting find that was made while the Bahrain Government was working on the mosque was of two graves below the east wall. The

graves were like those in the ancient graveyard nearby, they did not 172
point towards Mecca as do Moslem graves, and so it would seem that 778
the mosque was built on top of part of the ancient burial ground. The
pillars and columns of the mosque were connected by keel-pointed 346
arches and the ceiling was supported by two teak pillars 13 feet in height on the top of which rested a beam. The pillars and beam have been removed from the mosque and are in the possession of the Bahrain Government. It would seem that owing to the comparative weakness, of the pillars the roof can only have been made of some light material probably brushwood or palm-branches covered with earth.

Diez states that when he visited the mosque, early in the century, 172
there was a long inscription in the Qibla wall of the courtyard which
showed that the mosque in its latest form was built in the year 740 A.H. 778
(1339/40 A.D.). This tablet, together with some inscribed blocks which 346
used to be above the Qibla wall, have fallen from their place and while 212
some pieces of them are still in the possession of the Bahrain Government many have disappeared. These inscriptions and the square inscribed stone over the door of the western minaret are all of the same period, but it seems probable that the shorter inscription near the door of the minaret dates from the eleventh century A.D. At the feet of the pillars of the west wall of the courtyard are the remains of two Qibla stones. These have also fallen into disrepair since the visit of Diez, the top half of each stone has disappeared and the writer has been unable to trace them. The presence of these Qibla stones is unusual, only in the mosques of Ibn Tulun in Cairo and of the Prophet at Medina are they present. Qibla stones were used before the introduction of the mihrab niche to indicate the direction of prayer.

The two Qibla stones bear inscriptions that show them to be of Shiite origin and so the mosque in its present form is a Shiite one. The inscription on a wooden pillar which once supported the roof and which has also disappeared, was of the same period and bore a similar inscription. The wooden pillars formerly in the mosque led Diez to ascribe the original mosque to the tenth or eleventh centuries A.D. It is interesting to note that wooden pillars of the same style and with the same ornamentation were found in the mosque at Samarra, in Iraq, which was founded by the Caliph al-Mu'tasim in 836 A.D. The mosque also had a school and a well attached to it, the traces of the latter can still be seen near the graves to the east of the mosque itself.

In the corner of Bilad al-Qadim nearest to the Suq al-Khamis mosque is another ancient inscription, in the mosque known as Masjid ar-Raf'ia. This is also a Qibla stone, set into the west wall of the mosque, but although it is in Kufic characters the work does not seem as fine as in the Kufic inscriptions in the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, possibly because this mosque was of less importance than the one at the Suq. The inscription bears the names of Muhammad, Ali, Fatima, Hussein and Hassan and is therefore also of Shiite origin. Bilad al-Qadim itself presents a sorry spectacle and with the exception of the

172 south-west corner the town is deserted and in ruins. Also on this plain
778 is the Abu Zaidan Mosque, built over a spring of the same name. This mosque has recently been repaired by the Government and is much used
346 by the Shia people of Manama, especially by the women during weddings.

212 To the north of the Budaiya Road is the ruined mosque of Abu Mahara, a strange little building with two storeys and a tall column in the centre of the spring. This mosque was built in the year 889 A.H. (1484 A.D.) as shown by an inscription to this effect in its west wall.

There are many other mosques in Bahrain, some of which contain inscriptions giving the date of their foundation, but they are of comparatively recent date and the mosques themselves are of no architectural interest.

THE FORTS OF BAHRAIN

172' Portuguese and Persians, Arabs and Omanis, all these have at one
712 time or another attacked and occupied Bahrain and have retained control of the islands by the construction and garrisoning of forts and castles. The oldest surviving fort in Bahrain is the Qalat al-Ajaj, built by the Portuguese some time after their occupation of Bahrain in 1521. This fort lies on the northern shore of Bahrain Island some three miles from Manama and the easiest way to visit it is by driving along the Manama-Budaiya Road and then by turning off to the north when the ruins of the fort can be seen through the date palms.

On the sea shore below the fort can be seen the steps by which the Portuguese entered their boats, but with the exception of these remains there are no relics of the Portuguese in Bahrain. A number of cannon have been found, but there is a surprising absence of inscriptions, coins or gravestones.

The exact date of the construction of the fort is not known, but the fort was repaired in 1562 and 1586, this need for continual repair was no doubt due to the many revolts which took place in Bahrain against the Portuguese. Shaikh Khalifah an-Nabhani, in his history of Bahrain, mentions that he visited the fort and saw this latter date inscribed in four places on the walls of the fort, but today there is no sign of these inscriptions.

361 Page 62 shows a map of north Bahrain Island and Muharraq taken
172 from a Portuguese book of the seventeenth century. It is interesting to see that whereas the Portuguese fort, in fact, has five sides, with
712 square towers at four corners and a turret at the fifth, in the map the fort appears as square in shape while the moat is five-sided. The fort is at present in such a bad state of repair that it is almost impossible to discover the purposes of the various towers and chambers found in it, but an idea can be obtained of the great skill and care that went into the making of the walls by an examination of the towers and wall on the west side of the fort. The moat is no longer filled by the sea due to its neglect, although after the expulsion of the Portuguese the fort continued to be used by the Persian garrison in Bahrain.

A further examination of the map reveals that in the time of the

Portuguese there was a church in Bahrain (bottom left-hand corner) 361 and it is possible that the ruins that can be seen by the side of the road 172 leading to the fort were once a church. Also in the map is a village 712 of black-roofed houses with one tall minaret-like building, probably the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, whose twin minarets, as stated above, are of comparatively recent origin. The map also shows a number of small black houses facing on to a bay, these could represent the town of Manama, then a village, which is known to have existed in the time of the Portuguese. What is more surprising is the large two-storeyed fort on Muharraq Island ; this cannot be explained as easily as the other items, for there is to-day only one fort on Muharraq Island, that of Arad, which is known to have been built by the Omanis in 1800. It could be that they built their fort on the ruins of another older one, but it is also possible that this fort represents Muharraq town, which, until comparatively recently, was protected by a wall. On the map to the right of the fort is a small building with two flags, probably the tomb of some local notable, and to the left of the fort there is another group of houses representing either Muharraq or one of the coastal villages. Finally there is the island of Abu Mahir, whose fort is indicated by a small tower set in the sea to the left of Muharraq Island. The book from which this map is taken is in the Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris and the map is here reproduced by kindness of the Royal Geographical Society of Egypt.

Some miles south of the Jebal ad-Dukhan there is a hill called 172 'Amr and crowning it is a fort, a simple construction of loose stones, 712 built, according to tradition, by Shaikh Jabbara, who became ruler of Bahrain about 1698 A.D. Far from gardens and fresh water, this fort was in fact in an ideal position from which to guard Bahrain against foreign enemies, for the sea is visible to the east and the west. The story of Shaikh Jabbara will be told in Part III.

The palace of Shaikh Farir is said to have been situated at Rifaa ash-Sharqi, overlooking the central plain of Bahrain island and, to-day, the oil town of Awali. The fort of Rifaa ash-Sharqi in its present form was built by Shaikh Sulman bin Ahmed al-Khalifah, one of the early Khalifah rulers, who started work on it in 1812. The wooden doors that he caused to be set up can still be seen at the entrance to the house of the Amir of Rifaa, the inscriptions that they bear, when the numerical values of the letters are added up, indicate that the fort was built in the above year.

Returning to Manama, we pass the Qalat ad-Diwan, to-day used [625] as the H.Q. of the Bahrain State Police. Although this fort has been modernised, the main outline is still recognisable as it was built on the orders of Nadir Shah, after he seized Bahrain in 1739. This fort contained the Persian garrison in Bahrain till they were expelled by the Khalifah. Shaikh Isa (1869-1932) often used the Qalat ad-Diwan as his summer palace until it was taken over by the Police.

In Muharraq Island a rather comic toy-like fort sits on the seashore of Arad Bay facing Muharraq town. A simple construction of

172 high walls around a central courtyard are all that it consists of, and some
712 of the Omani guns still remain in the towers. The fort was built in 1800 by the Ruler of Muscat, Sultan bin Ahmed, who in that year seized Bahrain from the Khalifah and sent his brother, Sayed Said, to govern the Islands they were soon expelled but later returned. The Muscatis remained in their fort for nine years, but after their expulsion in 1809 by the Khalifah-Saudi alliance the fort was left deserted.

Near Muharraq town is the fort of Abu Mahur, already mentioned in connection with the Portuguese map and named after one of the largest undersea springs in Bahrain, which is situated near it. The fort, which dominates the southern approach to Muharraq and Manama, was built on the island-peninsular of Abu Mahur by Shaikh Abdulla al Khalifah, who ruled jointly with his brother Sulman, builder of the fort at Rifaa ash-Sharqi. In 1843 Shaikh Abdulla was expelled from Bahrain by his son Muhammad, who was also unable to enjoy a peaceful reign, for after a dispute with Qatar Muhammad was replaced as Ruler of Bahrain by his brother Ali and the British shelled the fort of Abu Mahur, which was destroyed with the exception of one tower.
[744] More recently the remains of the fort and the island was given to the Baluchi retainers of the Khalifah, but in 1930 the Baluchis were given land elsewhere and the island was turned into a Quarantine Station. This is therefore a fort which visitors are not advised to visit.

THE QANATS

312 "Qanat" is the Arabic name for the underground water channels
172 which are found in many parts of Bahrain, particularly in the south-west of the island. Here, among others, is a long channel running inland from Sadad, another brings water to Karzarkan from the spring called Ijraiyi, a mile and a half to the north, and a third channel runs from the spring of Malakiya to the village of the same name. These are but a few of the many channels in Bahrain.

312 These channels are present in great numbers in Persia and are also
171 found in eastern Saudi-Arabia and Syria. It is probable that those in Bahrain were first built by the Persians. It is stated in at least one history that they were the work of the Persian King Anushirvan who captured Bahrain from the Arabs in the fourth century A.D. They have often been mentioned by travellers to Bahrain and in a local history it is stated that during a war that took place in the eighth century between the people of Bahrain and an army sent by the Caliph, the Bahrainis made good use of these same channels by passing through them till they reached the rear of the enemy forces and then making a successful surprise attack.

312 The channels were built to prevent the wastage of water from evapor-
172 ation which would have occurred had the water been carried in surface channels, By this method the water is sheltered from the sun and its flow is not hindered by falls of sand or the movements of sand dunes. It seems that the channels were first built as open ditches and then roofed with slabs of sea rock, called feroush. The roofs of the channels are sloping and after construction they were covered with sand to the

level of the ground. Every 10-20 yards along the length of the channels 312
are airholes, round chimneys lined with stone and varying in diameter
from 2 to 5 feet. The top of the shaft, which resembles a well head, 172
is surrounded by a low wall. Page 116 shows the channel which has been uncovered and in which the construction of the airholes can clearly be seen. At the shaft of the water channel which runs west of the village of Shakhura there is a large subterranean room which serves the purpose of a bathing hall. It has a high arched roof with columns branching out from a central pillar. It is roofed over and has a hard gypsum floor covered with fine white sand. There is a continual stream of cold water through the chamber, which is still used by the inhabitants from the surrounding villages as a bathing place to which they go in the heat of the summer and sit in comfort in the shady coolness below. It is rumoured that there are more such chambers, but this is the only one that the author has personally visited.

The channels in most cases carry water from springs in the hills a few miles inland to the coastal gardens. Many of them are still used, although others have long since fallen into ruin, but very skilful work was involved in their building and the fact that water still flows in many of them is a conclusive proof of their scientific construction. So far, no inscriptions have been found within them, but there is no doubt that if they were examined with care some signs would be found of their exact origin.

In these four sections most of the antiquities of the Bahrain Islands 177
have been described, for they are unfortunately rare and, with the
exception of the Tumuli, the mosques, the forts and the Qanats there, is 212
little of archaeological interest in Bahrain. There are possibilities of future discoveries, however, especially in Bilad al-Qadim which should, as the ancient capital, yield something of interest to any archaeologist who explores its ruins. The numerous Arabic inscriptions would also be worth further study and their translation should add something to the history of Bahrain by giving the names of the various rulers who, at one time or another, built mosques or other buildings and had their good deed inscribed on stone.

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[4] Durand, Captain, *The Supulchral Tumuli of Bahrein.* Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1880.

[5] Diez, Von Ernst, *Eine Schiitische Moschee-ruine auf der Insel Bahrein,* Year Book of Asiatic Art, Leipzig 1925.

In addition to these works a number of books appear in the general bibliography at the end of this guide which may be consulted for further information about Bahrain's antiquities.

1: Belgrave . F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

CHAPTER IX

RELIGIOUS OCCASIONS AND LOCAL CUSTOMS

RAMADAN

796 785 [805] THIS fast, which is the name of a month in the Islamic calendar, has often been described as the Moslem Lent. During Ramadan there is a complete ban on eating, drinking and smoking during the hours of daylight. The Moslem day begins at sunset, and each evening during Ramadan the setting of the sun is announced by the firing of guns in various towns, the signal that eating and drinking may commence. Two meals are eaten during the night, the first as soon as possible after sunset and the second shortly before dawn. It is often the custom to break the fast with a drink of butter-milk, before proceeding to the heavy eating. After the first meal is over people in Bahrain go visiting and sit in the coffee-shops and cinemas. At the beginning of Ramadan, all through the night the town is busy with the coming and going of the people, radios and gramophones play at full blast in the coffee-shops and night is turned into day. Later in the month there is some slackening of activity, people return earlier to their homes and endeavour to get some sleep, but they are soon awakened by the drummers who go around the town before dawn waking the sleepers so that they may eat before it becomes light. Of necessity the non-Moslem follows the Islamic time-table during this month, for he is usually kept awake by the activity in the streets, and if he does succeed in getting to sleep he is soon awakened by the persistent drummers on their rounds.

According to Moslem Law eating, drinking and smoking must cease directly it is possible to discern the difference between a black and a white thread, but it is now the custom in Bahrain towns to fire guns to announce the break of day. During the day in Ramadan life moves at a slower pace than during the other months of the year, and this is especially true when Ramadan falls in the summer, for the combination of no food and drink and the heat and dampness of
[697] Bahrain reduces peoples' energy. It is noticeable that there are more court cases about domestic troubles during Ramadan while the serious crimes decrease. In the evenings in this month the townsfolk go out to the gardens and sit in the shade of the trees waiting for darkness to fall. Adari is particularly popular, many fasters try to reduce their thirst by swimming lazily in the cool waters of the pool.

As with all Moslem occasions, the end of Ramadan is decided by the appearence of the new moon, about which there is usually a dispute. While the Sunnis recognise the Royal Observatory at Cairo as an authority on the appearance of the moon, the Shia insist that it should be seen in Bahrain. The result has often been that the Eid has started on two different days for the two sects, and in one memorable year there were three Eid days, one for each of the two sects and a third for the Ismailis, who have their own way of reckoning dates.

A three day holiday follows Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, during which there are great celebrations and much visiting of neighbours to wish them "Eid-Kum Mubarak" (Happy Holiday), the answer to which is "Aadana Allah Ala Amthaleh." On the Eid the Ruler receives visitors at the Palace. The Eid is particularly colourful owing to the bright new clothes which are worn by the children. The boys wear new white thobes and bright-coloured silk caps and the girls proudly appear in gold-decorated dresses. In many cases small boys go calling with their parents, eagerly clutching handfuls of sweets as they leave their various hosts. Local bands, composed of the negro inhabitants of Bahrain, pass through the streets of the towns and villages playing tunes on their locally made instruments. These include many types of drums, flutes, lutes and a local form of bagpipe made from the stomach of a sheep. As the bands of players go from house to house they are tipped by the owners, who often, if they are wealthy, provide a meal for the musicians. 796 527 [534]

NEW YEAR'S DAY

It is the custom in Bahrain on New Year's Day of the Christian Calendar for groups of Bahrainis of African origin to form into bands and go playing through the streets of Manama. These men, who to day are the same as all other Bahrainis, are descended from freed slaves or were themselves slaves who escaped to Bahrain and were manumitted. In gratitude for their freedom they thus celebrate New Year's Day. They play first at H.B.M.'s Political Agency and the Adviserate and on leaving these places they split up into smaller parties to serenade their friends. Around Bahrain flags, borne by the leaders of the musicians, these people, both men and women, dance steps and play the music which was brought many centuries ago to Bahrain by their African ancestors. In the music to which they dance the rhythm of the drum plays an important part, but to a European it may seem strange that the drummers frequently leave off playing whenever they feel tired, or if they want to talk to a friend or drink a cup of tea or coffee, and when the distraction is over they again join the band. 563 527 533

It has occasionally been stated in newspapers and even recently in a book on Bahrain by some one who should know better that slavery still exists not only in the Persian Gulf but also in Bahrain. The celebrations of these Bahrainis at their freedom are proof enough that in Bahrain at least slavery is a thing of the past. [567]

THE HAJJ

The Hajj is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca which, according to his religion, every Moslem who is able to do so must perform once at least during his lifetime. The pilgrimage takes place during the month of Dhul Hajj. The pilgrims, many of whom have reached Mecca by most hazardous routes, wearing the two white unseamed garments that are mandatory, perform the various rites of the ceremony which includes the circumambulation of the Kaaba, pilgrimages and visits 788 796

796 to various points in the neighbourhood of Mecca connected with the
788 life of the Prophet Muhammad and drinking the water of Zamzam
Well. On the last day of the ceremony the pilgrims stand before
Ararat, a small mountain near Mecca, and throw stones at various
places to symbolise the stoning of the devil. On the 10th Day of Dhul
Hajj a great feast takes place. The pilgrims remove their pilgrim's
garb and throughout the Moslem world there is feasting and visiting.

In Bahrain, Eid al-Adhar is celebrated for three days, the 10th,
796 11th and 12th of Dhul Hajj. In former days there were very colourful
535 scenes and ceremonies at this feast, the retainers of the Ruler used to
perform war dances in front of the palace, discharging their ancient
rifles into the air, and occasionally at an unlucky member of the aud-
ience. The divers, who returned home during the Eid, danced in huge
groups for the entertainment of the people and were feasted in the
houses which they visited, but today the Ruler has few casual retainers
and the Bedouin, who were the mainstay of the dances, have settled
down and become ordinary citizens. Arab dances are therefore a
[517] thing of the past and the men who used to perform in them now find
their amusements in attending football matches and cinemas.

MUHARRAM

796 The circumstances that brought about the division of the majority
of Moslems into the Sunni and Shiite sects have been mentioned in
Chapter II. The battle of Kerbela is still recognised by the Shia of
Bahrain as a day of mourning for the martyrs who were killed.

During the first nine days of the month of Muharram, the first
month in the Islamic year, there is a general mourning among the
[346] Shia for their loss. In the Bahrain martams, which are religious meet-
ing houses not to be confused with the mosques, preachers tell the story
796 of the growth of Islam and the way in which Ali and his family were
537 set aside by those who became the early Caliphs. These mullas, many
[781] of whom come from the Holy Cities of Iraq for the purpose, are often
so eloquent that they reduce their audience to tears and wailing for
the mortifications inflicted on those whom they regard as the highest
of mankind after the Prophet himself. Night and day the tale is
unfolded as the mullas take it in turn to preach to the assembled crowds.
During the day the martams are not so full but at sunset the congrega-
tion increases as men return from their daily work. In the villages
and in the towns, in the yellow light of kerosene lamps and in the glare
of electricity, the story is told of those events which happened over 12
centuries ago. Many people are introduced into the story, the Old
Testament prophets, the Prophet Muhammad, his family and his
enemies, angels and archangels and other religious figures.

796 As the days pass the orators and their audience get more carried
away so that by the 10th of the month all are ready for the next act
of what has been called the "Miracle Play of Hassan and Hussein."
This is the public procession of the Shia which takes place every evening

before this day, but gathers strength on the night of the 9th. As the mourners leave the martams they are joined by others, some bearing torches and others carrying models of the tombs of Ali, Hussein and the others, while small children act the parts of the children of Hussein. Bands of men perform complex dances as they beat their backs with metal whips, while others cut their foreheads with swords. Men beat their bare chests as they are led by flag-bearers who keep time for the dancers. Music is supplied by the drums and chanting which fills the air with the sound, while wailing of black-clothed women on the roof-tops of the houses lining the route adds to the noise of the procession. White horses painted red to represent the blood of the martyrs, little children carried in litters and various other figures represent events in the drama of the passion play. As the morning of the 10th breaks preparations are made for the renewal of the procession, police line the routes, by-standers gather and the members of the procession leave the martams, joined later by the Shia from the villages. Slowly the great mass of men and boys passes through the streets, often taking over 1½ hours to pass one point but always completely under control and in time with the beating of the drums and the clash of the cymbals. Each group of men is led by one who is in charge of them and sees that they keep in time. In front of the breast-beaters is a man with a flag whose duty it is to indicate where they are to stop walking and start thumping their chests, and with his flag he indicates the tempo, and all along the route the thud can be heard as thousands of brawny men crash their arms and fists against their chests. In the centre of each huge circle of chain-men are two men with cymbals; these run up and down the road beating the cymbals and shouting "Ya Hussein" as the black robed men and boys strike their naked backs with copper chains. Despite its sound, this latter does little harm to the men and it is very rare that blood is drawn. 796 [535]

In former times it has been known for the man who acted the part of Yazid, the villain of the Passion Play, to have been seriously wounded by people carried away by the scene, but today Yazid no longer appears in the procession, nor does the Christian who gave water to Hussein and his people and who was formerly represented as a man with a sun-helmet, waving a whisky bottle and obviously drunk. This was in the days when the British were the only Christians in Bahrain and this was therefore considered the way in which to indicate a Christian ! Today, with the exception of the small children who are carried in litters the only person who appears in the play is Zain al-Abdin, the only adult male survivor of the massacre, who appears riding on a horse or a camel and whose part is usually taken by one of the religious teachers or their assistants. [186]

The procession[1] is arranged in nationalities, the Bahrainis, Persians, Qatifis and Hasawis, and the two latter groups of people come to Bahrain from Saudi Arabia, where the procession is banned. Each group, led by men with huge embroidered banners, passes along the road through rows of silent onlookers, many of whom are Sunni and 796 795

[1] [On the 10th Muharram — Analyst]

796 who therefore disapprove of the whole affair, but it is rare that there
795 is any trouble between the two sects, both of them having adopted the principle of live and let live.

796 In the afternoon of the 10th Muharram the more energetic members of the procession go out into the villages where similar smaller processions take place and which are often made more colourful by the use of additional model tombs which are no longer seen in Manama. In the evening, as in every evening of the first ten days of the month, those who took part in the processions are feasted in the martams, and for three more days the orators continue to preach to the people, for it was for three days that Hussein lay on the field of Kerbela. But on the 13th of the month the period of mourning ends, the "props" are returned to the various martams, the collecting boxes are again displayed in the Shiite shops, out of which some of the expenses of Ashura are paid, and the Mullas return home to Iraq.

796 Europeans are permitted to witness the procession on the 9th and
609 10th days of Muharram, but it is illegal to photograph any part of the procession and the State Police remove the cameras or movie-cameras
656 and expose the film of those who break this law. In addition, unwary photographers have often been roughly handled by members of the Shiite faith, who feel that a sacred procession is not a suitable subject for casual snap-shots. It is therefore much more tactful to dispense with artificial means and to rely on one's memory for recording what is an unique occasion, for the procession has been banned in Iraq and Persia and so Bahrain is now one of the very few places where it can be seen.

CHAPTER X

BAHRAIN'S STAMPS

205 THE generally accepted date for the establishment of the first post office in Bahrain, in the town of Manama, is 1884, and as the Indian Government was at that time responsible for political relations with the Ruler of Bahrain, it naturally followed that Indian stamps were used in the Islands. It was not till 1911, however, that a formal agreement granting the British a monopoly of postal services in Bahrain was signed.

In the first instance Indian stamps were used without an overprint—Indian stamps of Queen Victoria and George V post-marked "Bahrain," and it is only possible to trace stamps used in Bahrain by the post-mark. The two most usual post-marks are a circle with bars outside and two circles with the name at the top and the date across the centre. Fortunately the word Bahrain shows up quite well in most of these, provided that there is enough of the post-mark on the stamp if the latter is not on a cover. These issues were usually limited to 3 pies, ½ anna, 1 anna and 2½ anna stamps.

The use of Indian stamps overprinted "Bahrain" dates from the 10th August, 1933, but the first set was replaced in the following year and the S.G. (Stanley Gibbon's Catalogue) No. 9, 4 anna value, is quite hard to obtain and is sometimes confused with the 4 anna No. 19, although the latter does not bear the word "revenue." Following the issue of new Indian stamps in 1937 the set was overprinted for use in Bahrain in 1938 ; six stamps of this set are pictorial and most attractive, showing the history of the postal service in India. A new Indian issue in 1940 was overprinted for use in Bahrain in 1942 and continued in use until India and Pakistan obtained their independence, whereupon the Bahrain Post Office changed from being part of the Indian postal system to being a branch of the British G.P.O. Following this change British overprinted stamps were issued on the 1st April, 1948. 205

1948 was a prolific year for stamps. On 26th April the Royal Silver Wedding issue was overprinted for use in Bahrain, and on 29th July the stamps commemorating the Olympic Games were issued. 1949 was the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, and in common with most countries, an issue of four stamps was overprinted for use in Bahrain. 1950 saw the issue of one stamp, a 4 anna value, but in May of the following year five low value stamps in the Universal Postal Union colours were issued, together with new designs of the three high-value stamps of the United Kingdom.

There has never been a postage due stamp in Bahrain, a rubber stamp has served the purpose. Recently an air letter form was issued as a trial and became very popular, so that sales exceeded all expectations. Bahrain stamps are in considerable demand, but owing to the smallness of the internal mail and the popular use of franking machines Bahrain stamps are far from easy to find. The most valuable Bahrain stamp is the 2½ anna Olympic Games issue with a double overprint of which only half a sheet of unused stamps has come to light. The S.G. No. 42, a 1 anna 3 pies value, in good used condition, is also a very hard stamp to obtain and is worth more than the current catalogued price.

Although revenue stamps are not collected by the majority of philatelists, those of Bahrain are of interest by reason of their attractive designs, which are of Bahrain scenes and activities. The 4 anna value shows an old peddler weighing out his goods, the 8 anna value a section of Manama and some sailing boats, the 1 rupee, an Arab with his two means of hunting, the falcon and the salugi ; the 5 rupees shows a pile of pearl shells, the 10 rupees a donkey carrying skins of water, the 50 rupees a pair of camels and the 100 rupees, date palms. 651

At the time of writing a new set of revenue stamps were in the process of printing, of the following values : 4 annas, 5 rupees, 10 rupees, 50 rupees and 100 rupees. All bear the head of H.H. The Ruler and in addition the four high values have the Suq al-Khamis Minarets, The Rifaa Palace, the Sitra Pool and a sailing boat as designs.

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Part II.—THE HISTORY OF THE BAHRAIN ISLANDS.

175 Of all the Persian Gulf shaikhdoms the Bahrain islands have had by far the most interesting and varied history, of which this brief outline must of necessity mention only the most outstanding events. The riches of Bahrain's ancient pearling industry have drawn the attention of many rulers to the islands, whose strategic position and fresh-water springs have meant that for centuries there has been a settled population.

101 175 It is believed that the names Niduk-ki and Dilmun (or Tilwun) which appear in Babylonian and Assyrian inscriptions found in Iraq were the ancient names of the Bahrain islands, in which case events in Bahrain's history are recorded from the third millennium B.C., as long as 5,000 years ago.

Unfortunately only one cuneiform inscription has been found in Bahrain itself, an inscription which has been translated as follows: "The Palace of Rimugus, the servant of Inzaq (Mercury) of the tribe of Aqiru."[1]

This inscription appears to have been removed from a Bahrain mosque by its finder, Captain Durand, and its present whereabouts is unknown.

The place-name Niduk-ki appears in the Babylonian myth of the Creation, while the Assyrians also had a tradition that their civilisation, and more especially the invention of the cuneiform script, originated in Dilmun. [171] The tumuli of Bahrain bear a very striking resemblance to Phoenician graves, a fact noticed by many writers from the time of Strabo to the present day. Archaeologists who have studied them are, however, still unable to agree as to their origin beyond saying that they are of great antiquity.

175 The first historical reference to Bahrain appears in an inscription concerning the conquests of Sargon of Akkad, who reigned in the third millennium B.C. In this inscription he is described as having reduced Niduk-ki and another seaport, and during the following centuries there are many references to Niduk-ki and Dilmun, giving the impression that the places referred to were both islands and trading centres. In 1820 B.C. a king of Larsa, in Southern Mesopotamia, sent a trading expedition to Bahrain, obtaining there stone, metals, wood and ivory, materials probably brought to Bahrain from India. Towards the end of the eighth century B.C. another Sargon, the Assyrian monarch also gained control of Dilmun by means of threats and economic pressure, and we have an interesting description of the contemporary Bahraini ruler: "Uperi, king of Dilmun, who lives like a fish, thirty double hours away in the midst of the sea of the rising sun, heard of my lordly might and brought his gifts."

[1] [For footnote see Cat. 116, p. 87 -- Analyst]

The inhabitants of Dilmun also sent tribute to Sennacherib the son of Sargon, after he had sent them some of the debris of Babylon, which he had destroyed, as a sign of the fate in store for cities that incurred his displeasure. 175

After the fall of the Assyrian empire in the seventh century B.C. we hear no more about Bahrain until the time of the Macedonian adventure in the East, when Alexander sent three vessels on voyages of exploration down the Arabian coast of the Persian Gulf. Two ships under the commands of Archias and Androsthenes sailed only as far as the island of Tylos, which has been identified with Bahrain. Later Roman geographers seem to have become somewhat confused in their descriptions of the Persian Gulf, and while Arrian applies the name of Tylos to Bahrain, on the map of Ptolemy Bahrain appears as Ichara and Tylus and Arathus are shown at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. Whatever were the ancient names of Bahrain, it is interesting to note that the name Aradus is still applied to part of Muharraq in the Arabic form *Arád*.

After the fall of the Mesopotamian civilisations no foreign power seems to have controlled Eastern Arabia until early in the fourth century A.D., when Arab tribes from that area raided Fars and sacked many of its cities. The young Sassanid king Shapur II repelled the invaders and carried the campaign into their own territories. He landed on the Arabian coast and annexed East Arabia and Bahrain to Persia, which acquisitions were later placed under the authority of the King of Hira, an Arab buffer state on the south-west border of Sassanid Persia.

THE COMING OF ISLAM

A somewhat confusing aspect of the history of Bahrain is the change in nomenclature which took place in the Persian Gulf during Portuguese activity there. From the third to the sixteenth century, the name "Bahrain" was applied to the whole coast of Eastern Arabia from Kuwait to Qatar, while the main Bahrain island was known as *Awal*, but since the last date the name "Bahrain" has been applied to the islands. In the following passages the modern names will be used to simplify matters. 101

When the first Moslems came to Eastern Arabia they found there a people strangely mixed in their beliefs. There were Christians and Jews, Zoroastrians who followed the state religion of Sassanid Persia, and pagan Arab Bedouin. The local governor for the Persians was a Christian Arab, Mundhir bin Sawa by name, and according to Syrian Christian records of the late seventh century, there were in Arabia at this time five Nestorian bishops, one of whom appears to have been bishop of the Bahrain islands. The Christian viceroy and many of his Court accepted Islam, but on his death, and again on the death of the Prophet Muhammad, the bedouin, who made up the bulk of converts, if indeed they had really been converted, "apostasized," and it required expeditions from Medina to restore the country to the Moslems. 75

175 For the next 350 years Bahrain and Eastern Arabia were ruled by governors on behalf of the Caliphs, but from time to time there were politico-religious revolts against the central authority, and both Shia and Kharajite schismatics sought refuge on the Bahrain islands, where for short periods they were able to defy the power of the Caliphs. Isolated by the sea from the rest of Arabia, Bahrain was often, during its history, the refuge of political and religious fugitives.

The Servile War that ravaged lower Iraq during the second half of the ninth century also detached Bahrain from the Caliphate, and although on the fall of the Slave State the Caliph regained some of his former territories, a power was shortly to appear which finally removed both Bahrain and the mainland from his control.

THE CARMATHIANS[2]

An offspring of the extreme Ismaili sect, but with many other contributing features, the Carmathian movement was most successful in Eastern Arabia where a State was established with its capital at al-Mu'miniyah. The Carmathian rule in East Arabia was probably beneficial for the inhabitants of this area which during most of its history played the part of a neglected border province and which was now the centre of an empire. The success of the new belief in Arabia at the turn of the ninth and tenth centuries has been partly explained by the presence in East Arabia of a number of Magians and Jews, happy to aid any power hostile to the Caliphs, and also of the Arab tribesmen, who resented authority and were delighted to raid their neighbours in the name of the Carmathians.

The first Carmathian ruler was Abu Sa'id al-Jannabi, and it was during his reign that in 903 the Carmathians seized Hajar many of whose inhabitants fled to the Bahrain islands; while under Abu Tahir, Abu Sa'id's son and successor, the Carmathians shocked the Moslem world by sacking Mecca and removing the Black Stone from the Ka'aba to their capital, where it remained for thirty years. It is not known when the Carmathians occupied the Bahrain islands, but while they were in them they put them to good use. Not only did they send exiles there, but also established on the islands a customs station, from which they levied taxes on Arabian Gulf shipping; in addition they received half the proceeds of the pearling industry.

THE ARAB DYNASTIES

About the year 1058 Abu-l-Bahlul, a leading inhabitant of the Bahrain islands, revolted against Carmathian rule and made himself prince; he defeated a Carmathian army sent against him and appealed to the Caliph in Baghdad for aid and recognition, but shortly after his victory he was driven from Bahrain by the Ruler of Qatif, Yahya b. 'Abbas. War followed between the successors of Yahya and Abdulla al-Ayuni, who had succeeded the Carmathians in Hasa, in which the latter triumphed and seized Bahrain, which he and his family ruled for many years. Little is known about Ayuni rule in Bahrain, but in 1154

[p.78]

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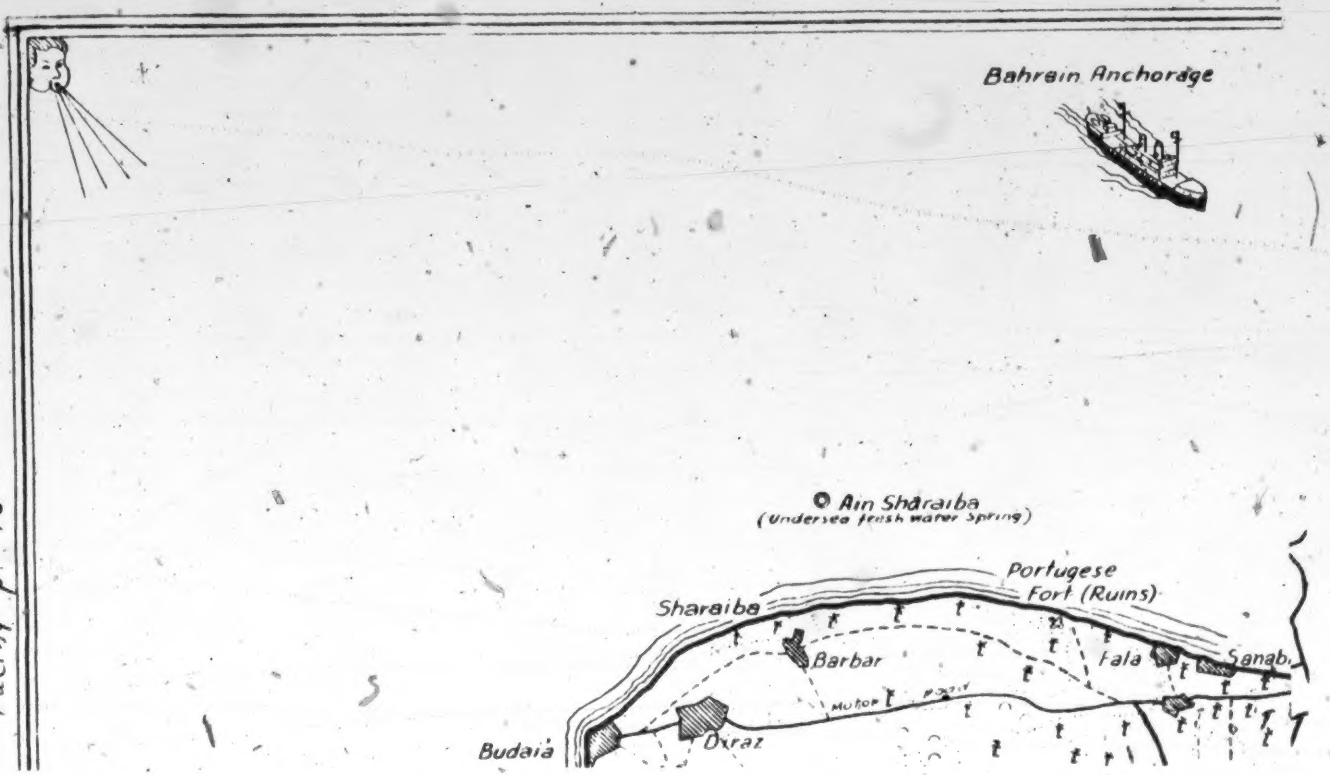
[2] [For footnote see cat. 116, p. 87 -- Anal.]

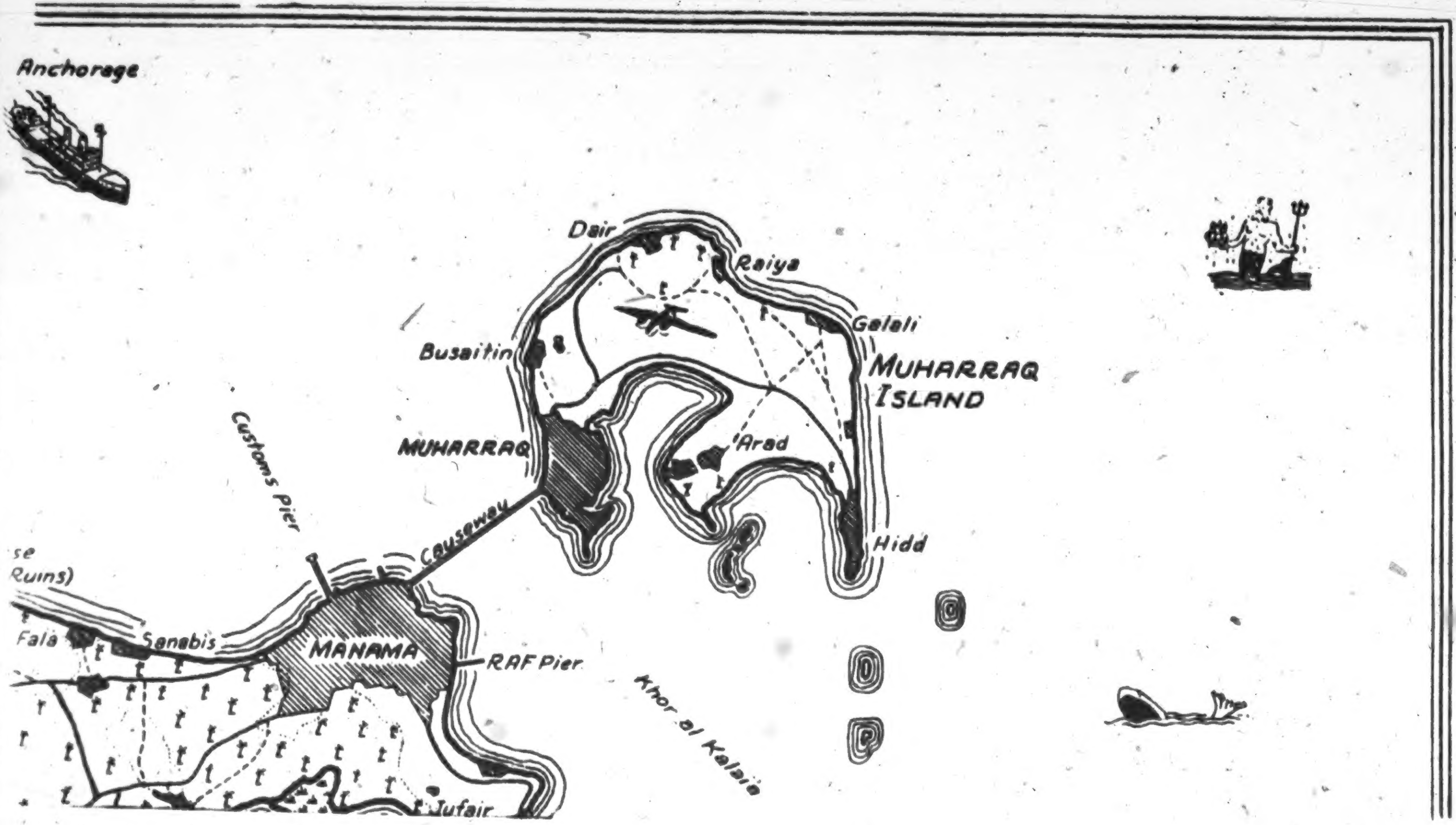
Facing p. 78a

102

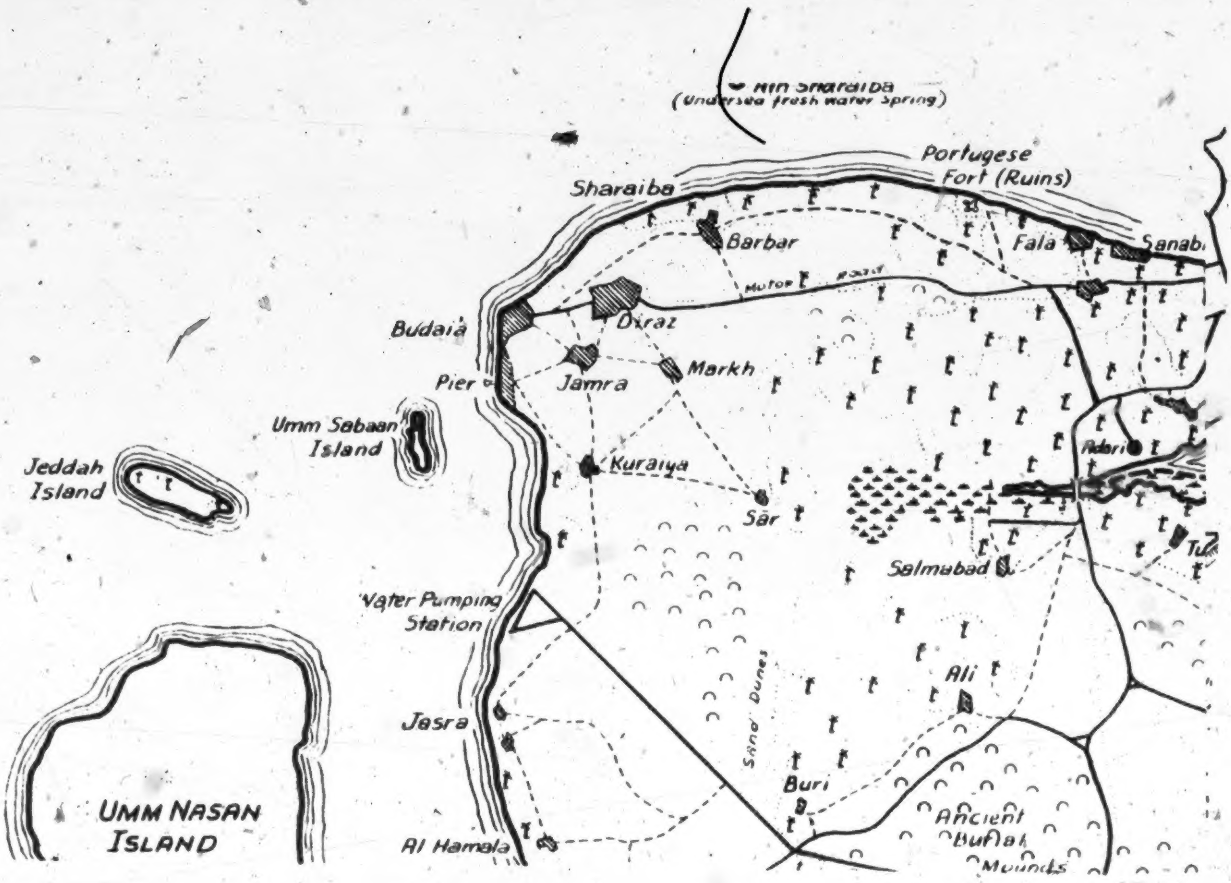

Bahrain Anchorage
Ain Sharaiba
(Undersea fresh water Spring)
Portugese Fort (Ruins)
Sharaiba
Barbar
Fala
Sanab
Motor Road
Budaia
Diraz

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain-MZ2

Facing p. 78 b


Anchorage
Dair
Raiya
Galali
Busaitin
MUHARRAQ ISLAND
MUHARRAQ
'Arad
Hidd
Customs Pier
Causeway
se Ruins)
Fala
Sanabis
MANAMA
RAF Pier
Khor al Kalaia
Jufair

Facing p. 78C

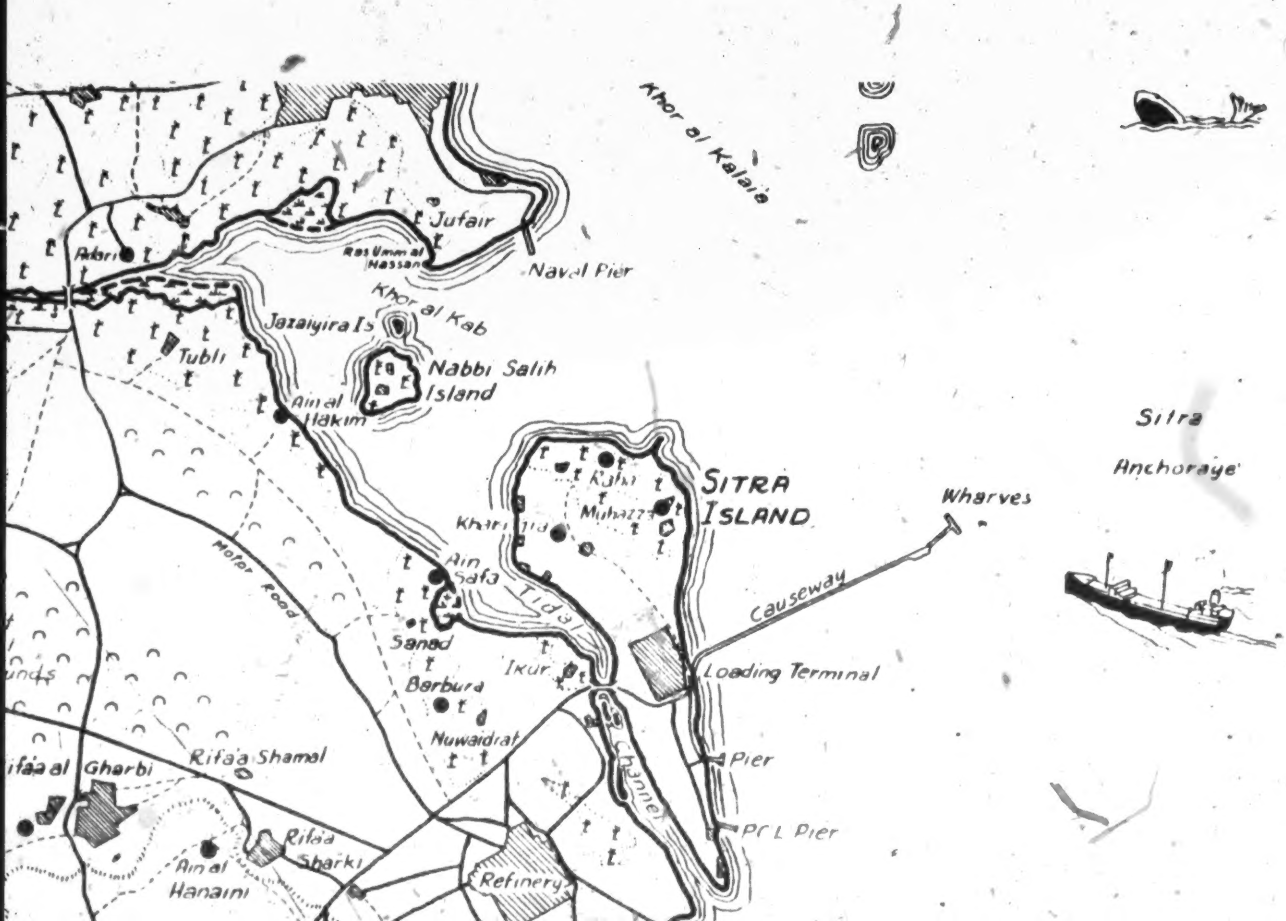

Ain Sharaiba
(Undersea fresh water Spring)
Portugese
Fort (Ruins)
Sharaiba
Barbar
Fala
Sanabi
Motor road
Budaia
Diraz
Markh
Jamra
Pier
Umm Sabaan
Island
Jeddah
Island
Kuraiya
Sar
Adari
Salmabad
Tu
Water Pumping
Station
Sand Dunes
Ali
Jasra
Buri
Ancient
Burial
Mounds
Al Hamala
UMM NASAN
ISLAND

102

102

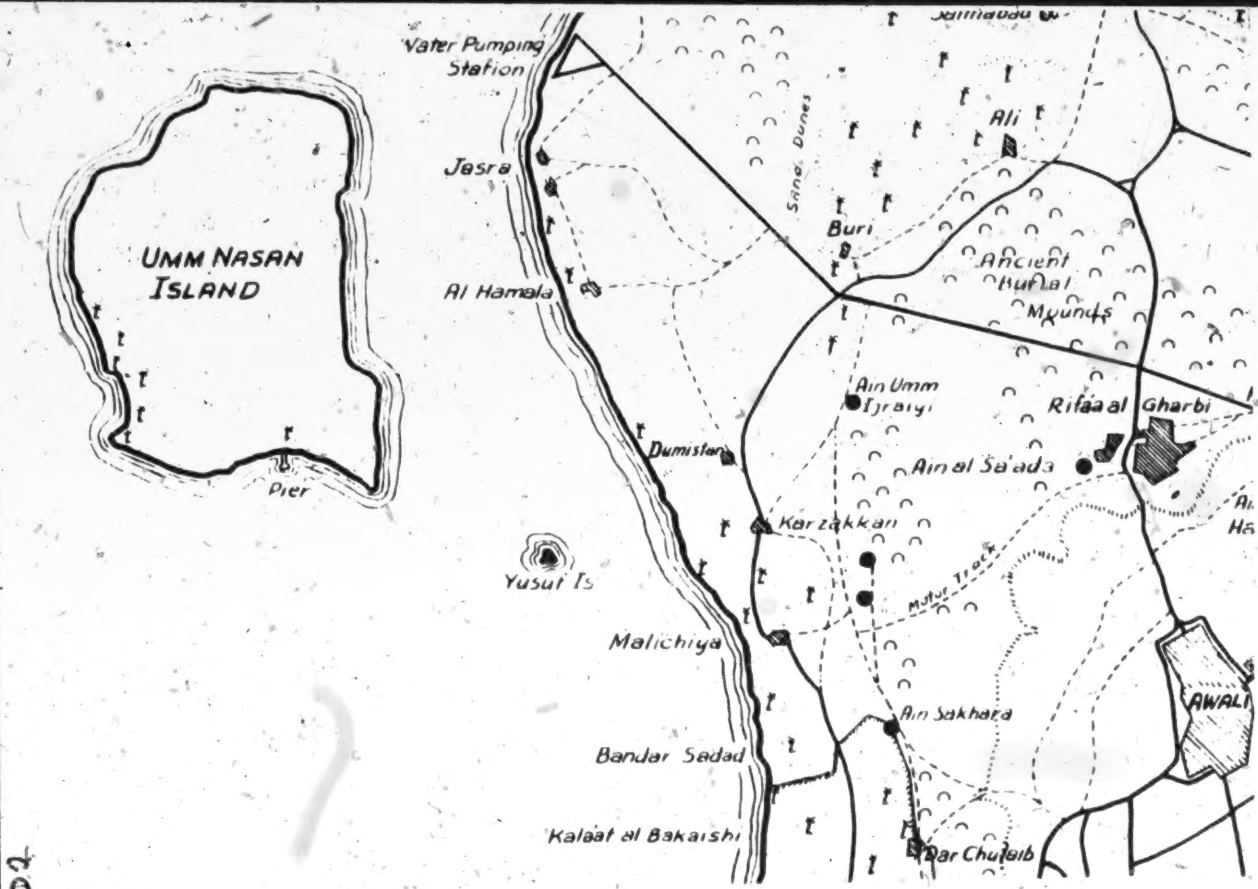
1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

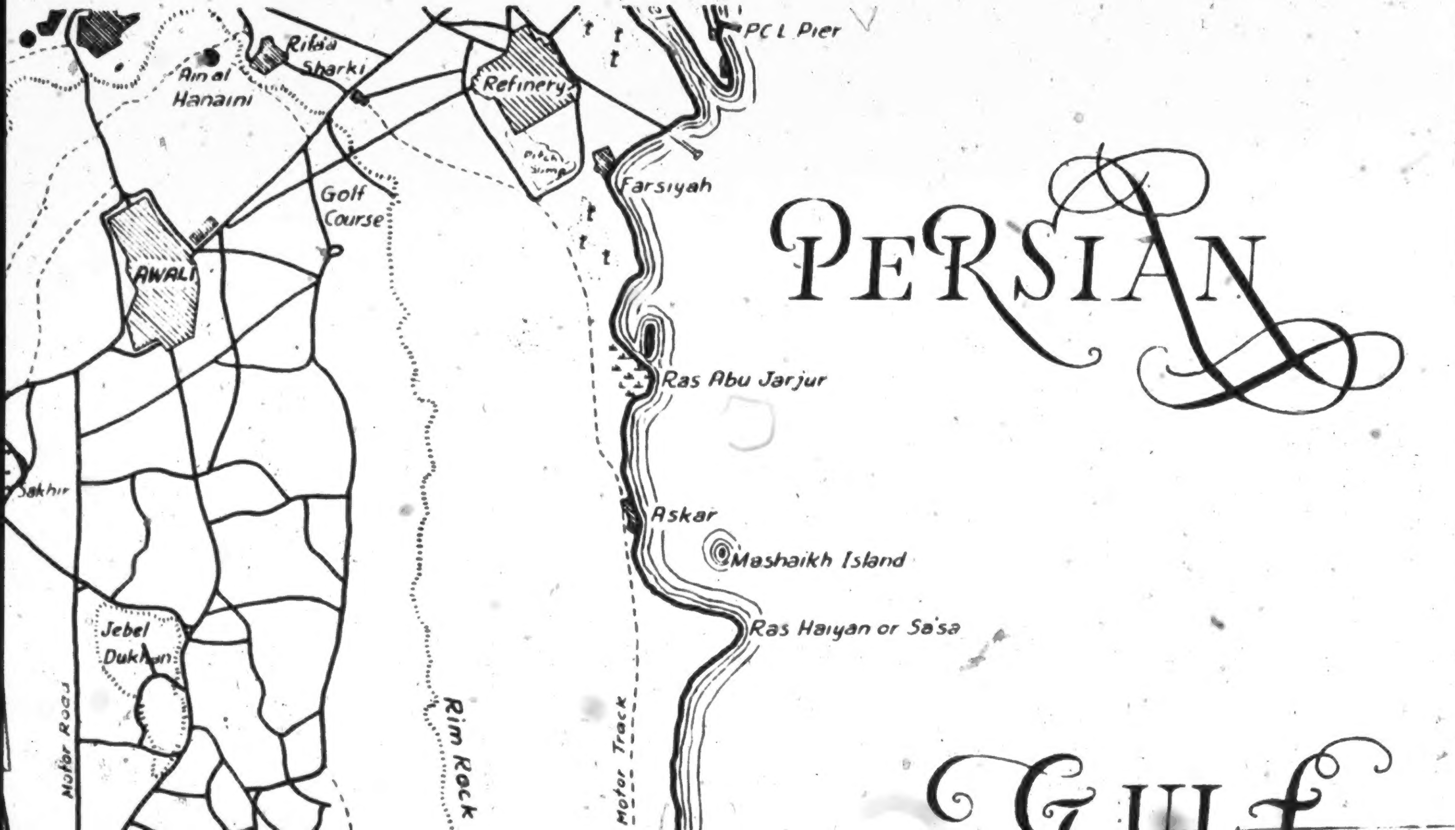
Facing p. 78d


Khor al Kalaia
Jufair
Ras Umm al Hassan
Naval Pier
Adari
Khor al Kab
Jazaiyira Is
Tubli
Nabbi Salih Island
Ain al Hakim
Sitra
Anchorage
SITRA ISLAND
Kalia
Muhazza
Kharijiya
Wharves
Ain Safa
Tidal
Causeway
Motor Road
Sanad
Ikur
Loading Terminal
Barbura
Nuwaidrat
Channel
Pier
PCL Pier
Rifaa Shamal
Rifaa al Gharbi
Rifaa Sharki
Ain al Hanaini
Refinery

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 78e


Water Pumping Station
Jasra
Al Hamala
Dumistan
Karzakkan
Malichiya
Bandar Sadad
Kalaat al Bakaishi
UMM NASAN ISLAND
Pier
Yusuf Is
Sand Dunes
Ali
Buri
Ancient Burial Mounds
Ain Umm Ijraiyi
Rifaa al Gharbi
Ain al Sa'ada
Motor Track
Ain Sakhara
Dar Chulaib
AWALI


PCL Pier
Rifaa Sharki
Ain al Hanaini
Refinery
Pitch Dump
Farsiyah
Golf Course
AWALI
PERSIAN
Ras Abu Jarjur
Sakhir
Askar
Mashaikh Island
Ras Haiyan or Sa'sa
Jebel Dukhan
Motor Road
Rim Rock
Motor Track
GULF

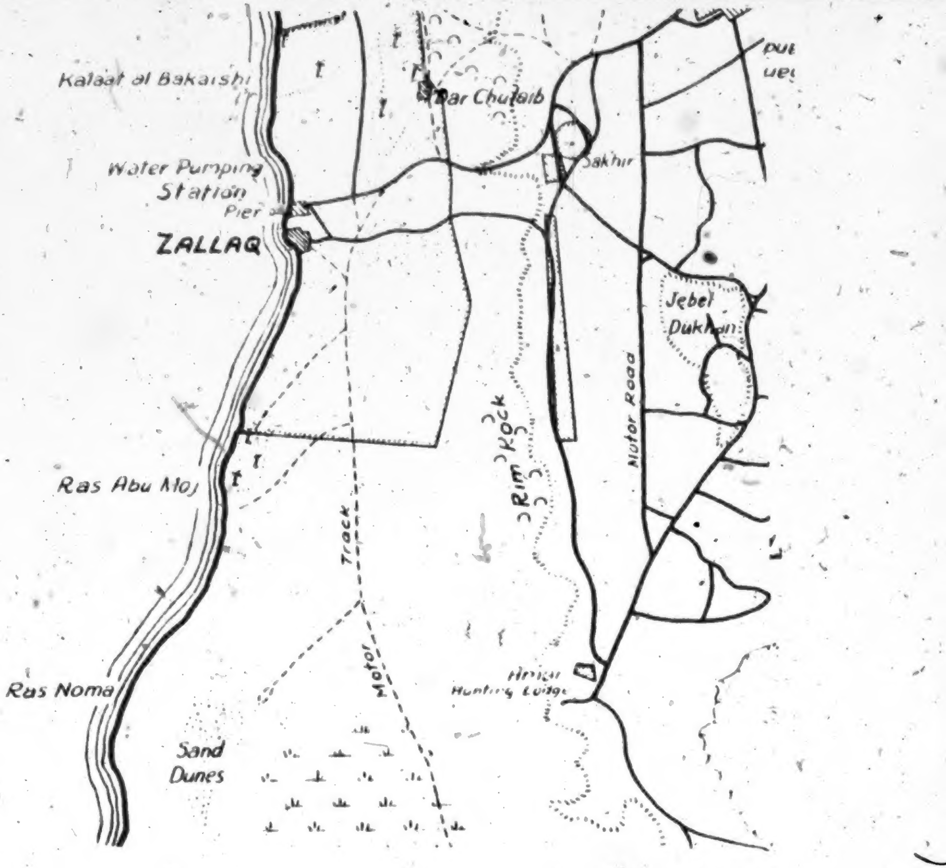
1; Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 · MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 78 f

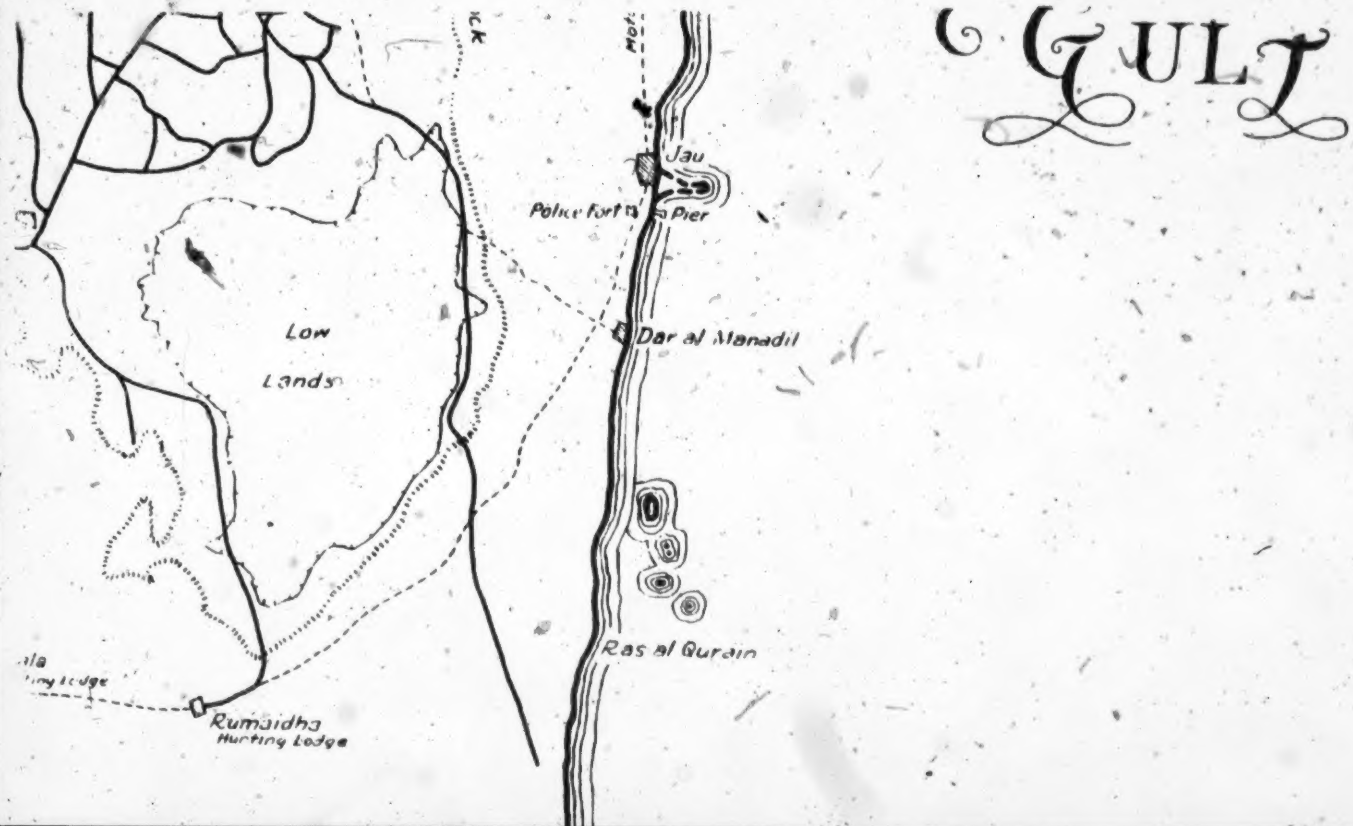
1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 78

102


Kalaat al Bakarshi
Dar Chulaib
Sakhir
Water Pumping Station
Pier
ZALLAQ
Jebel Dukhan
Motor Road
Rim Rock
Track
Ras Abu Moj
Ras Noma
Motor
Sand Dunes
Hunting Lodge

102


GULF
ck
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Police Fort
Pier
Low
Lands
Dar al Manadil
Ras al Qurain
ala
ting Lodge
Rumaidha
Hunting Lodge

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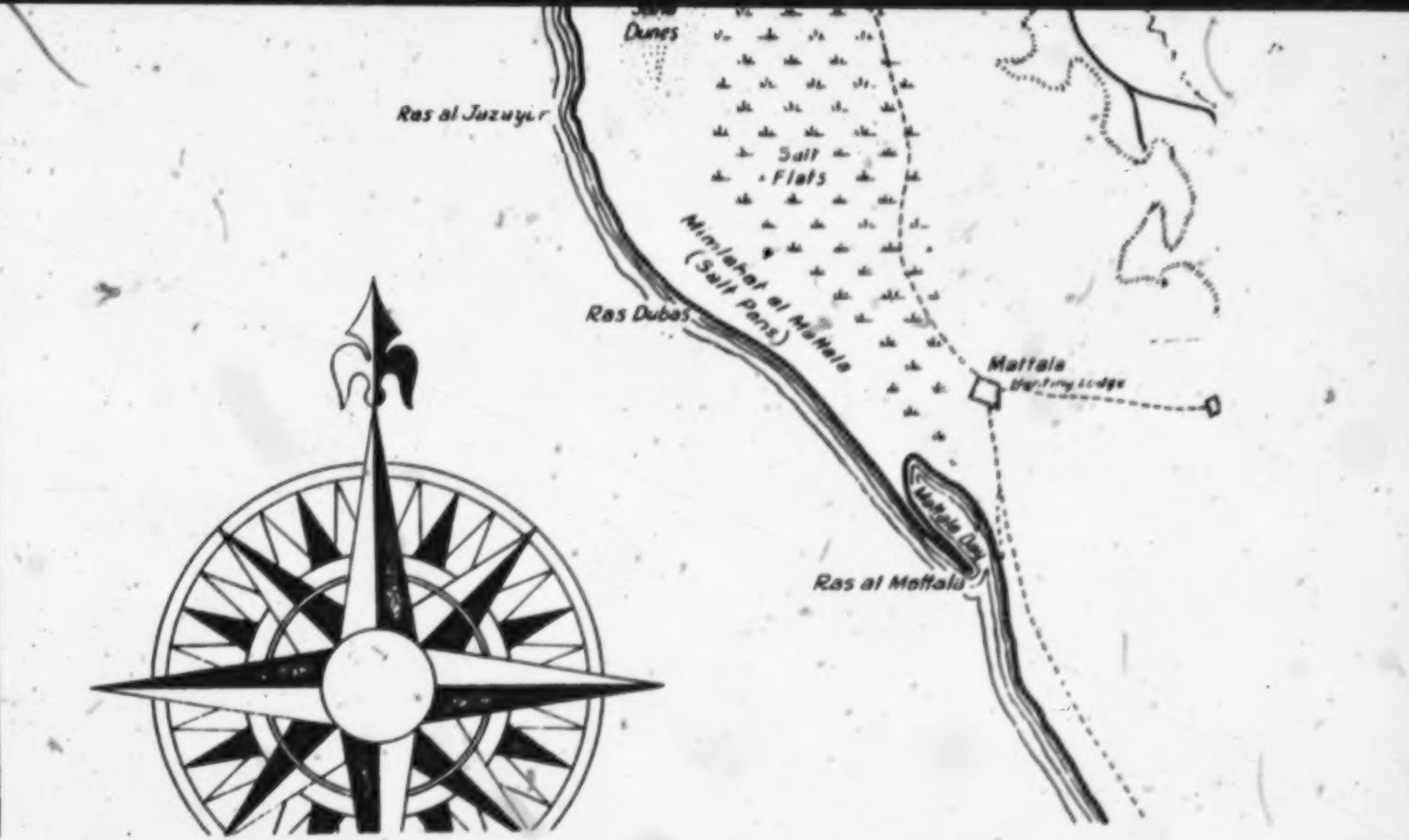
102


Sand Dunes
Ras al Juzayir
Salt Flats
Mimlahat al Mattala (Salt Pans)
Ras Dubas
Mattala
Waiting Lodge
Mattala Bay
Ras al Mattala

102

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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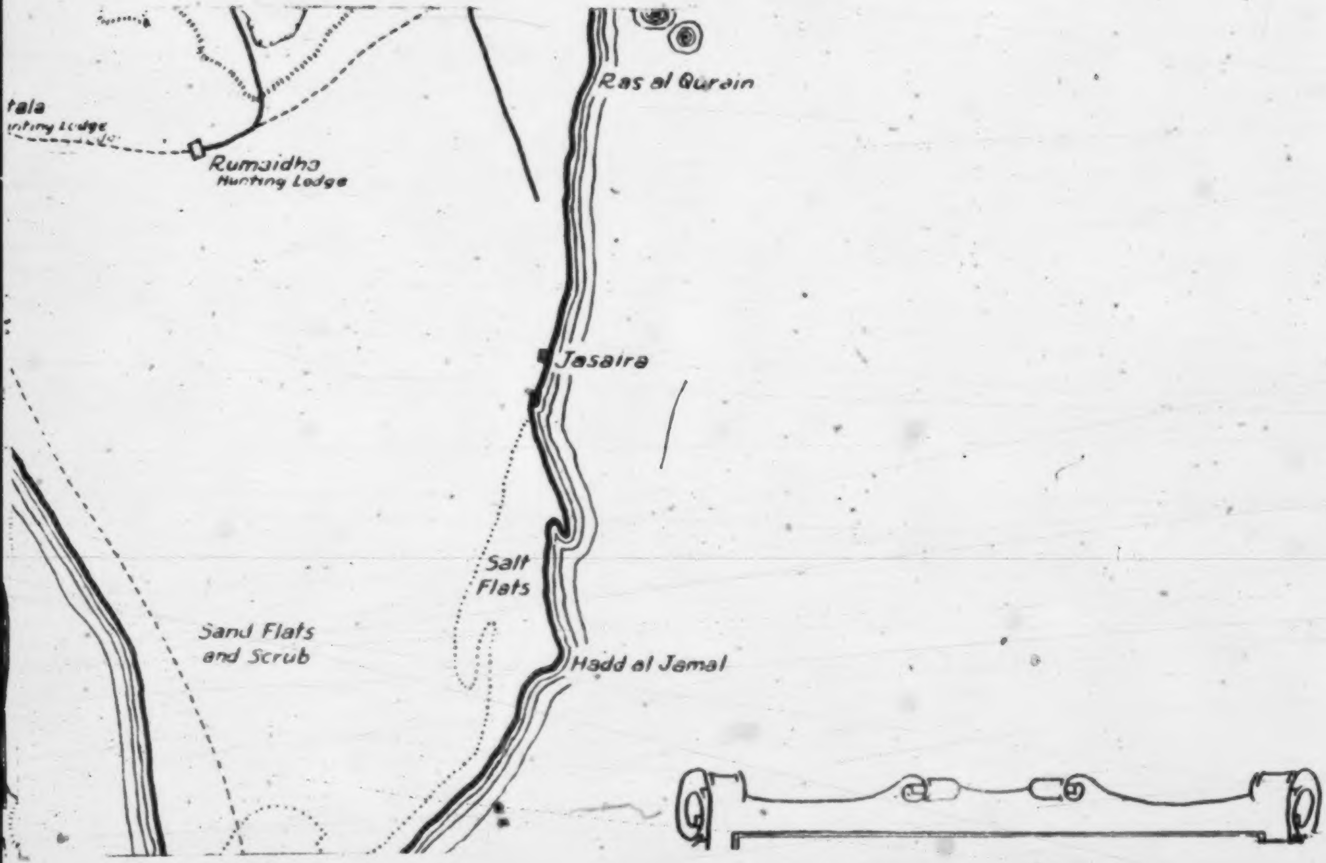
tala
nting Lodge
Rumaidha
Hunting Lodge
Ras al Qurain
Jasaira
Salt
Flats
Sand Flats
and Scrub
Hadd al Jamal

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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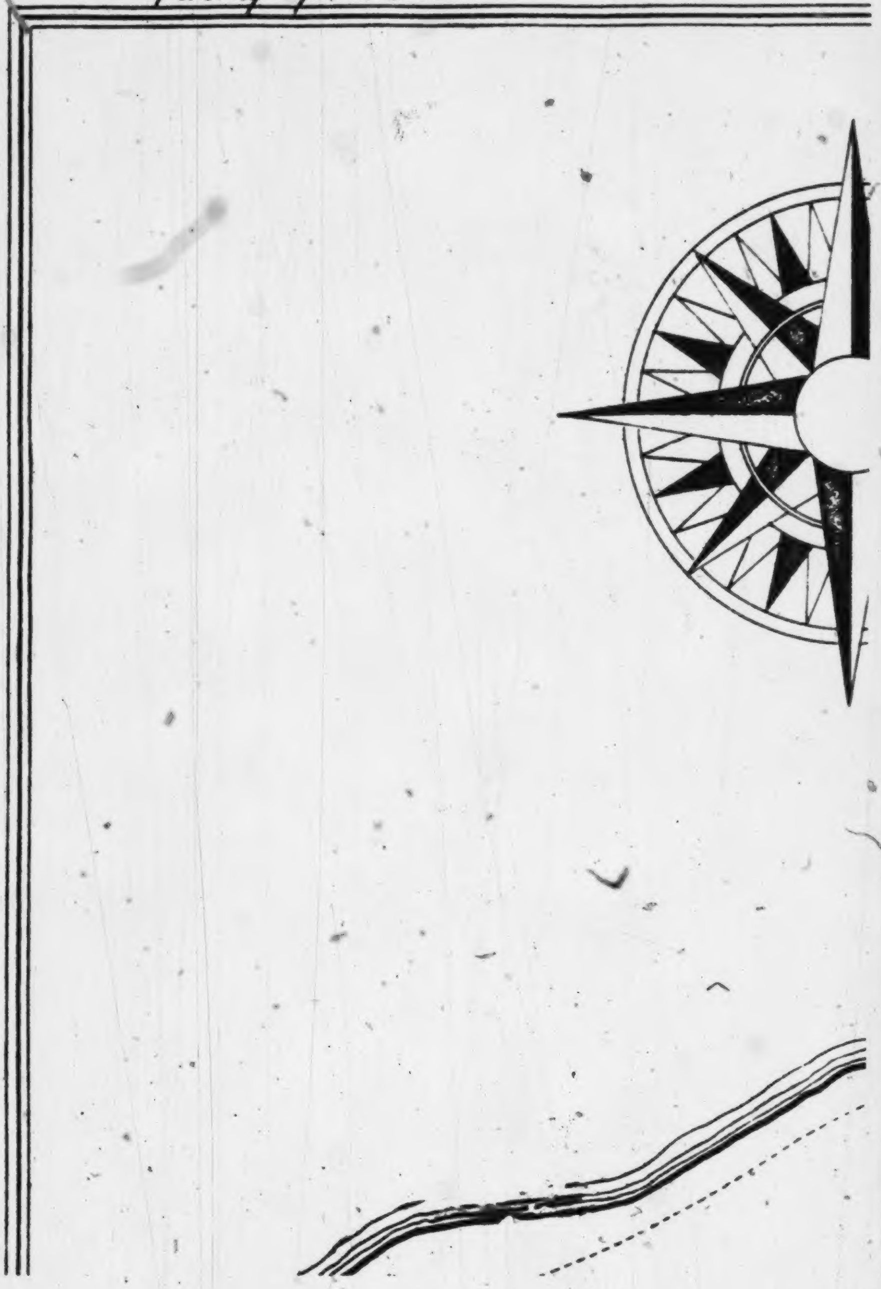
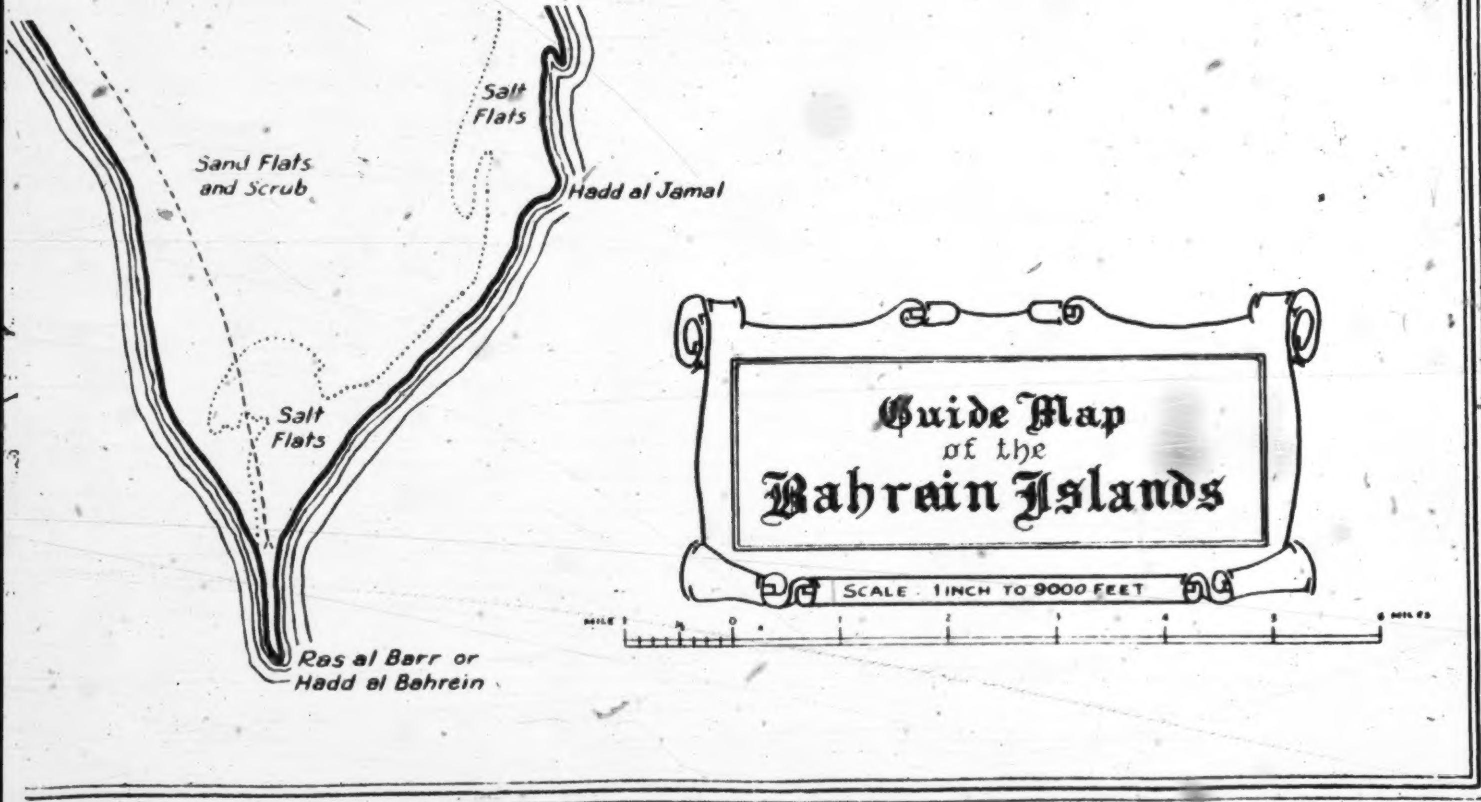
102



102


Salt Flats
Sand Flats and Scrub
Hadd al Jamal
Salt Flats
Ras al Barr or Hadd al Bahrein
SCALE 1 INCH TO 9000 FEET
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5
6 MILES

Guide Map of the Bahrain Islands

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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DRAWING NO BRB-9432

NOV 7, 1951.

175 we have a description of Bahrain left by the famous Arabo-Spanish geographer Idrisi. After giving a remarkably accurate description of the islands, in which he describes in detail the method of pearl diving, the agriculture and the various fresh-water springs and pools, he records the apparently Utopian state of the administration :

"The island is governed by an independent chief. The inhabitants of the two banks are satisfied with his justice and his piety, and when he dies he is replaced by a person who equals him in virtue and justice."[3]

Although Idrisi says the chief is independent, he qualifies this by stating that the Governor of Qais, himself a tributary of the Caliph at Baghdad, received tribute from Bahrain. A number of Arab writers have left us descriptions of Bahrain in the fourteenth century, a period in which the islands changed hands many times. In 1346 Bahrain appears in story of the struggle between the ruler of Hormuz, Kutb ed-Din, and his nephews, in which the latter take refuge in the islands, and in the following year we have the first reference to Manama when the Hormuz ruler visited the town. In 1384 there was a war between the ruler of Bahrain and Qatif, independent at this time, and the ruler of Qais island, in which the latter was victorious and received in the peace settlement a number of Bahrain islands and an annual tribute of 500 dinars.

Early in the fifteenth century Bahrain was united with Qatif and Hasa under Shaikh Ibrahim al-Maliki, but previous to the year 1475 the islands were under the control of Hormuz, and in this year they were granted to a certain Agwad b. Samigh in return for the aid he had given the ruler of Hormuz in capturing the islands from his brothers. In 1487 the tyrannical reign of Agwad's son was terminated by an Omani invasion of Bahrain, when 'Umar b. al-Khattab was appointed governor.

THE PORTUGUESE[4]

The voyages of Vasco da Gama and other Portuguese mariners towards the end of the fifteenth and the start of the sixteenth century resulted in the opening up of the Persian Gulf to European ships, and in 1507 the Portuguese, under Alfonso de Albuquerque, conquered Hormuz and set about developing it into a great trading centre. The first sign of Portuguese interest in Bahrain was the visit there, in 1514, of de Albuquerque, but his only act was to confirm existing treaties between the local shaikh and the king of Hormuz, who had been retained by the Portuguese as a "puppet" ruler ; however, he also took a great interest in the pearl industry and realized its possible value to Portugal. Some time after this visit Mukarram, king of Hasa and son-in-law of the Shaikh of Mecca, seized Bahrain and Qatif from Hormuz, and in 1521 the king of Hormuz gave the loss of Bahrain as his reason for failing to pay the agreed sum of tribute to his Portuguese overlords. This loss of revenue and the interference caused to trade between Iraq and Hormuz by the ships of Mukarram angered the Portuguese, and the governor of Hormuz, Diego Lopez, despatched

3 + 4 [For footnotes see cd 116, p. 87 -- Analyst]

a fleet against Bahrain under his nephew Antonio Correa. The Portuguese fleet was accompanied by another sent by the Ruler of Hormuz under his vezir, Rais Sherif. After having been delayed by storms, the fleet arrived at Bahrain and the Portuguese set about attacking the defenders. Although the Hormuzi force stood aloof until they were sure the Portuguese were gaining the upper hand, the Europeans finally triumphed. Mukarram was wounded and died a few days later; the remains of his army fled to the mainland, whither they were pursued by Rais Sherif, who returned to Bahrain in triumph with the head of Mukarram, which he sent to his sovereign in Hormuz. A bi-lingual inscription was erected in Hormuz to commemorate the victory, and on his return to Hormuz, Antonio Correa was granted the honour by the King of Portugal of bearing on his family arms the title "Barem" in honour of this event.

Soon after the fall of Bahrain the King of Hormuz, restive under Portuguese domination, organized simultaneous revolts against their rule in Muscat, Hormuz, Bahrain and Sohar. In the first two towns the revolts were soon crushed, but more success was met with in Bahrain where Hussein b. Sa'id led the inhabitants in executing the hated Portuguese governor and expelling the garrison, but after a short period of independent rule Hussein came to terms with the Portuguese and accepted their adviser.

The year 1529 saw another challenge to Portuguese authority in Bahrain occasioned by their exiling the vezir of Hormuz, a relative of the governor of Bahrain, for refusing to pay additional taxes. When the Bahrain governor copied the example of his relative, a Portuguese fleet was sent to Bahrain under the command of Simeon da Cunha, brother of the Viceroy of India. Despite the governor's reluctance to come to blows with the Portuguese, they attacked the Bahrain fort, but found themselves short of gunpowder. Fever then reduced the number of able-bodied men to thirty-five. However, the governor aided the fleet to leave Bahrain, for he was afraid he would incur the serious wrath of the Portuguese if he destroyed their expedition, but on the return journey a storm destroyed most of the ships, and Simeon is said to have died from chagrin at his defeat.

By 1534 the Portuguese had again lost control of Bahrain, for in that year the independent rulers of Bahrain and Hasa sent envoys to welcome to Iraq the Turkish Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. In 1551 one of the three surviving ships of Piri Rais, Kapudan Pasha of Egypt, after the loss of the rest of his fleet by defeat and storms, was wrecked on the treacherous reefs of Bahrain. Local tradition says that the ship was loaded with treasure, plunder from the Pasha's expedition. Three years later the Turkish author-admiral Sidi Ali paid a peaceful visit to Bahrain which he speaks well of, and was entertained by the governor, Rais Murad. However, in 1559 the same governor was attacked in Bahrain by a strong fleet and a brigade of janissaries, but the Turks were severely defeated by a Portuguese fleet ~~which came~~

to the aid of the beleaguered governor at his request. The last Portuguese governor in Bahrain seems to have been Jalal ed-Din Mahud Murad, in whose reign the Manama fort, built by the Portuguese soon after their arrival in Bahrain, was repaired.

The Portuguese attempted to maintain their rule over Bahrain by a carefully conceived policy. They would appoint as their governor a Persian Sunni Moslem, hoping that because he was a Moslem he would be acceptable to the inhabitants, but that being a Persian he would not always side with the Arabs of Bahrain, and being a Sunni that he would not intrigue with the Shia of Bahrain and Persia. Despite this system, however, Portuguese rule in Bahrain was very insecure during the period 1522–1602.

THE FALL OF THE PORTUGUESE.

The immediate cause that brought about the expulsion of the Portuguese from Bahrain was the behaviour of their governor, a relative of the king of Hormuz. He set the seal on a most tyrannical rule by the murder, in 1602, of a wealthy and respected Bahraini in order to gain control of his wealth, especially his famous collection of pearls. The victim's brother, Rukn ed-Din, having gained the confidence of the murderer, slew him, and with the aid of the people seized the fort. The rebel then put himself under the protection of the Persians, as being the main rivals of the Portuguese in the Persian Gulf, and the Prince of Shiraz sent a force which withstood a Portuguese counter-attack, and then took over the islands in the name of the Shah of Persia. In 1580 Spain and Portugal had been united under King Philip, and at the time of the fall of Bahrain the Spanish were officially at peace with Persia, but when the Spanish protested about the seizure of Bahrain the Persians retorted that they had taken the islands from the King of Hormuz and not from the Spaniards. Not content with this answer, the governor of Hormuz sent a fleet and an army against Bahrain, but the governor of Shiraz marched on Bushire and drew the Portuguese forces from Bahrain. Despite this, the Portuguese forces would probably have taken the islands but for trouble in their own ranks which prevented the success of the expedition. In 1603, Allah Werdi Khan again seized Bushire and other territories of the ruler of Hormuz, but was ordered by the Shah to retreat from Bushire and to return Bahrain to the Portuguese ; however, the latter order was ignored.

During the next decade the Spanish king in letters to the Viceroy of India emphasized the importance of the recapture of Bahrain, and also made diplomatic representations to the Shah for the return of the islands. Even the capture of Hormuz in 1622 by an Anglo-Persian force did not make the Iberians give up hope of the eventual recovery of Bahrain, and in 1645 a Portuguese fleet set out from India destined for Hormuz and Bahrain, but it was destroyed by Omani pirates before it had even entered the Persian Gulf.

From 1602 till the end of the centruy a series of Persian governors ruled Bahrain with the aid of a garrison of some 300 men, but at the turn of the century the Omanis invaded Bahrain, and the havoc and suffering they caused have been graphically described by a contemporary writer, Samahiji.[5] The invaders were of the Kharijite sect of Islam, enemies of the Shia inhabitants of Bahrain, and their acts drove most of the population of Bahrain to flight to Qatif, where many of them settled. In 1720 the Persians purchased Bahrain from the Omanis for "a large sum of money."

THE PERIOD OF ANARCHY

The confusion in Persia early in the eighteenth century which was caused by the Afghan invasions loosened Persian hold over the Gulf and independent shaikhdoms reappeared. Bahrain fell into the hands of the shaikh of Nabend, and he was later overthrown by the powerful Shaikh of the Huwala Arabs, Jabbara of Tahiri, whose wise and beneficial rule lasted till 1736. In this year Nadir, who had settled the affairs of Persia and made himself Shah, ordered the Persian Admiral Latif Khan to capture Bahrain. The admiral seized two British ships, including the *Northumberland*, for which he paid 50,000 tomans, and sailed with these and other ships for Bahrain. Shaikh Jabbara was away on the pilgrimage to Mecca and his reduced garrison was soon overpowered by the invaders. Bahrain was put under the control of the governor of Shiraz and a Persian garrison was stationed in the Qalat ad-Diwan, the Manama fort built at this time by the Persians and now used as the headquarters of the Bahrain State Police.

In 1738 Bahrain underwent another Omani invasion, when the army of Saif b. Sultan invaded the islands, and again many refugees fled to Qatif and other Persian Gulf ports. It is probable that these two Omani invasions in the eighteenth century were responsible for the many deserted and ruined villages noticed in Bahrain by Niebuhr, who stated that wars had reduced their number from 360 towns and villages to sixty "wretched villages." The occupation, however, was of short duration, for in the following year the Persians annexed Muscat and so regained Bahrain. Later Bahrain was captured by the Huwala Arabs, only to be taken from them by Shaikh Nasir al-Mathkur, shaikh of Bushire and an Arab of Omani origin, one of the many semi-independent shaiks who appeared in the Persian Gulf at this time.

THE AL-KHALIFAH

The present ruling family of Bahrain trace their origin back to the great 'Anizah tribe which once inhabited the deserts of Iraq and later moved down to Najd ; the Sa'udis of Sa'udi Arabia and the Sabah of Kuwait are also descended from the same tribe.

In 1716 the Bani Utbah clan, consisting of the three families of the Khalifah, the Sabah and the Jalahma, gave up its nomad habits and settled on the site of the present town of Kuwait. Under the guidance of Shaikh Khalifah b. Muhammad, the clever and enterprising chief of the Khalifahs, the family prospered and became powerful, developing a special interest in the pearl trade. In 1766 Muhammad, successor

5 [For footnote see cat. 116, p. 87--Analyst]

of Khalifah, led some of the Khalifah families down to the little village of Zubara, on the west coast of Qatar, in order to be nearer the Bahrain pearling industry. The villagers of Zubara welcomed the newcomers and soon the remainder of the Khalifah and many other families came to the new settlement, but the Musallim tribe, the rulers of Qatar, resented the intruders and demanded tribute from them. The Khalifah refused, and with the support of other clans from Kuwait they repulsed an attack of the Musallim. They then continued the construction of a large town between the bay of Zubara and their great fort, Qalat Marir, the ruins of which stand to this day.

In 1776 Basra was captured by the Persians, but during its seige many of the inhabitants fled to Zubara, where they were welcomed, and helped to increase the size and importance of that town. The Persians watched with apprehension and envy the expansion of Zubara, which they felt was a threat to their hold over nearby Bahrain, and when Khalifah, Muhammad's son and successor, was away from Zubara on the pilgrimage, they attacked Zubara, but were driven off. Khalifah died before returning from Mecca and was succeeded by Ahmed, who had led the Zubara garrison against the Persians.

Although the first visits of the Khalifah to Bahrain had been carried out on a friendly basis, for the purpose of buying pearls, friction soon developed between them and the local inhabitants, and there was some fighting in which a number of deaths occurred. The governor of Shiraz then despatched a fleet against Zubara under the command of Shaikh Nasir ; the Persians landed on the Qatar coast near the town and were faced by a confederation of Arab clans led by Ahmed al-Khalifah. The two forces joined in combat beneath the high walls of the town, and after hours of bitter fighting in which "the sword play and spear play commenced, heads flew away from bodies and warriors attacked each other with cries which melt away cowardly hearts,"[6] the Khalifah and their allies triumphed and the Persians fled to their ships, leaving many dead on the sands. Meanwhile the Sabah of Kuwait, having heard of the Persian attack on their cousins, descended on Bahrain and cut off the Persian retreat, forcing Shaikh Nasir to retire to Bushire. Soon after the Persian defeat Shaikh Ahmed al-Fatih (The Conqueror) occupied Bahrain and sent Nasir's family, which he found there, to him. It was a result of the Khalifah victory that Rahmah b. Jabr, who had fought alongside the Khalifah at Zubara, broke with that family and became a pirate, reserving his special hate for the new rulers of Bahrain.

THE CONSOLIDATION OF KHALIFAH RULE

Ahmed, the first Khalifah ruler of Bahrain and Zubara, reigned till the year 1796, passing the summers in Bahrain, in the fort built during the time of Nadir Shah, and the winters in the town of Zubara. Ahmed was succeeded by his son Sulman, who was responsible for the emigration of many of the inhabitants of Zubara to Jaw, on the coast of Bahrain, out of fear of the Wahhabis, who were at this time expanding their power in Arabia. In fact, the danger came from another direction;

6. [For footnote see cat. 116, p. 87--Analyst]

175 in 1799 the Imam of Muscat sent a fleet and occupied Bahrain, and Shaikh Sulman believing that he was too weak to expel the invaders, retired to Zubara, from where he made a treaty with Sultan b. Ahmed, and sent him his brother Muhammad as a pledge of his good behaviour. Sulman remained inactive in Zubara till 1807, when the death of his brother left him free to attempt the reconquest of Bahrain. He appealed for help to the Wahhabi ruler, Abd al-'Aziz, who had just captured the Holy Cities and in 1809 the latter sent an army against Bahrain and drove out Salim, its governor, and the garrison which was stationed in the fort that the Omanis had built at Arad, on Muharraq island. The Khalifah expected to be reinstated in Bahrain, but the Wahhabis were loth to give it up having once controlled it, and meanwhile their garrison maltreated the Shia inhabitants and tried to convert them to Wahhabi beliefs. Shaikh Sulman's protests at this treacherous behaviour were ignored, and he was taken with other members of his family to Dar'iyah, the Wahhabi capital, but resistance continued in Bahrain, where the youthful 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Fadhl, a relative of the Khalifah, set our secretly for Muscat, giving out that he was going on a trading expedition to India. He appealed for help to the Imam, who gave him money and a sword, and then proceeded to Persia, where he enlisted the help of the governor of Shiraz ; he also hired men with the money he had received from the Imam. Having met at a rendezvous on the mainland, the Arabo-Persian force was led by 'Abd ar-Rahman against Bahrain and the Wahhabis were expelled, their governor flying to Qatar. Once Bahrain had been retaken, the Khalifahs travelled there from Zubara, as did many other Arabs who disliked the oppressive and harsh rule of the Wahhabis, and despite the measures of its Wahhabi governor, Zubara was left completely deserted. By means of a trick the Khalifah hostages freed themselves from their captors and returned to Bahrain, where Sulman again took up the reins of office.

Concerning Bahrain at this time, we have a description of the islands written by J. M. Kennier in 1813[7]:

"Bahrain island is the finest island in the Gulf. It is covered with villages and date gardens ; there is a town and fort of Medina (*sic*) with 800 or 900 houses. It carries on much trade with Basra and other Gulf ports."

The first contact between the British and the Khalifahs of Bahrain occured in 1814, when the British Resident in Bushire assured the ruling Shaikh of British neutrality if Bahrain were attacked by the Imam of Muscat. In return for this rather negative promise (though the Resident did advise Sayyid Sa'id of Muscat against attacking Bahrain), the Shaikh agreed not to carry out acts hostile to British interests. The attack actually took place in 1816, probably incited by Rahmah b. Jabr, but a dispute between the Muscatis and the force from Bushire resulted in their defeat at Arad and the death of Hamed, brother of the Muscat Sultan. In November 1828, Sa'id again arrived at Bahrain, this time with allies from the Trucial Coast and a battle took place

7 [For footnote see cat. 116, p. 87--Analyst]

at Jufair, but again the disunity of the Muscati army brought about its defeat by the Khalifah. Although in 1829 Sayyid Sa'id officially recognised the independence of Bahrain, to the end of his days he did not cease intriguing with other rulers for the downfall of the Kahlifah.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

In February, 1820, the joint rulers of Bahrain, the shaikhs Sulman and Abdulla, signed the "General Treaty,"[8] the first official contact between the East India Company and Bahrain, which followed a successful British attack on the pirates of Ras al-Khayma. In 1833 Shaikh Abdulla of Bahrain, who was at war with the Wahhabi ruler of Najd, captured a number of ports on the Arabian coast opposite Bahrain, but was prevented from consolidating his position there by dynastic troubles which broke out in Bahrain. These troubles were exploited by the interested powers, Britain, Persia and Egypt, for their own ends, and while Persia and Britain backed different claimants to the throne, Britain warned Egypt and the Sultan of Muscat, whose ruler seemed likely to come to a reapproachment with Mehmet 'Ali over Bahrain, that she would tolerate no Egyptian interference in Bahrain, and Mehmet's aspirations in this area were finally ended by the co-operation of the European powers against him in Syria.

In 1843 Abdulla was expelled from Bahrain by his nephew and co-ruler Muhammad, and retired to Bushire, where he died in 1848, leaving a son who later became very much concerned in the affairs of Bahrain. Muhammad enjoyed a long and comparatively untroubled reign, although in 1855 and 1856 the Wahhabis again put forward claims to Bahrain, but these were rejected by the British, who had already recognized the independence of Bahrain. In 1861 Muhammad signed a "Perpetual Treaty of Peace and Friendship" with Great Britain concerning such matters as slavery, maritime aggression and Britishers trading in Bahrain, but the peace of the islands was disturbed by the raids of Muhammad, son of the Abdulla who had died in exile in Bushire, who, with the aid of the Wahhabis, attacked Bahrain shipping from his base at Dammam. In 1861, the British expelled Muhammad b. Abdulla from Dammam, but he remained in the Persian Gulf and later returned to Bahrain.

After six years of peace war broke out between the Qataris, tributaries of Bahrain, and the Khalifahs. Having invaded Bahrain and been defeated, the Qataris were then involved in a naval battle with the Khalifah between Bahrain and Qatar, and were again defeated, but the British, angered by the actions of Muhammad, declared that he had acted contrary to the Treaty of 1861, and sent a man-of-war to Bahrain. Muhammad b. Khalifah fled to Qatar ; the fort of Abu Mahur, near Muharraq, was destroyed, and the Bahraini fleet was burnt. 'Ali b. Khalifah, who had succeeded his brother on the latter's flight, was forced by the British to pay a fine of 100.000 Maria Theresa dollars, and Muhammad was forbidden to return to Bahrain. The last condition was later released, but Muhammad b. Khalifah continued

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8 [No- footnote see cat 116, p. 87 --Analyst]

195 his intrigues, and was re-expelled, fleeing to Kuwait. He later travelled to Darin, where he built up a force with which he invaded Bahrain in September 1869, defeated and killed 'Ali at Rifaa and again became ruler of Bahrain. In Muhammad b. Khalifah's army he had as lieutenant Muhammad b. Abdulla, who had been expelled by the British from Dammam, and later in the year this Muhammad overthrew the new shaikh, imprisoned him, and made himself ruler.

The confusion caused in Bahrain by these troubles resulted in the appearance there of the British consul from Bushire in a man-of-war. The consul arranged for the deportation to Bombay of both the new shaikh and his imprisoned rival, and then consulted with local notables to see which member of the Khalifah family they would prefer to have as shaikh. The choice fell upon 'Isa, son of 'Ali b. Khalifah, who was at the time residing at Qatar, and he was summoned to Bahrain and acclaimed as its ruler. He reigned for fifty-four years till his abdication in 1923.

THE RULE OF SHAIKH 'ISA

From time to time during the remaining years of the nineteenth century the British Government rejected Turkish claims to sovereignty over Bahrain, as in the years 1870 and 1874, while at the same time the British took the opportunity to consolidate their power in Bahrain by means of two treaties signed between Shaikh Isa and the British Government in December, 1880, and March, 1892. By these treaties the shaikh bound himself not to enter into any relationship with a foreign government, other than the British, without the latter's consent, and there were also stipulations about the disposal of Bahrain territories. In 1902 a British Political Agent was posted in Bahrain, and in July, 1913, a Convention was signed by the British and Ottoman Governments, which included the recognition of Bahrain's independence and control of a number of islands near her. Three years later Ibn Sa'ud signed a treaty with the British Government in which he also agreed to refrain from aggression against Bahrain. In April and May of 1923 there were internal troubles in Bahrain which led to the abdication of Shaikh 'Isa and the succession of his son, Shaikh Hamed, who ruled for twelve years as deputy ruler, and on the death of Shaikh 'Isa in 1935 became Shaikh of Bahrain.

BAHRAIN IN RECENT YEARS

178 With the accession of Shaikh Hamed the story of modern Bahrain
185 begins, and during the nineteen years of his rule Bahrain was transformed into a modern state. Conditions in the pearl industry were reformed, the position of the divers was bettered, municipalities, education and other public services were developed, as is described in other Chapters, and in many ways the state of the people of Bahrain was improved. In 1930 Shaikh Hamed signed a Concession Agreement with a company known as the Bahrain Petroleum Company,
000 and three years later the first tanker-load of oil left Bahrain. The

The

first payments of oil royalities came at a critical time in Bahrain's 651
history, when it was suffering from the effects of a slump in the pearl- 722
ing industry, and they enabled the State to continue its public works
and social services. Apart from increasing the cost of living and 458
causing a shortage of foods, the 1939-45 war had no direct effect on Bahrain, with the exception of a long-range bomber raid carried out by the Italian Air Force on the oil installations of Bahrain, and this attempt failed.

On February 20, 1942, Shaikh Hamed died, and was succeeded 643
by his son, Shaikh Sulman bin Hamed al-Khalifah, the present ruler, under whom the march of progress in Bahrain has continued. The story of modern Bahrain and the activities of the Bahrain Government are described in Chapter III of the First Part of this book.

NOTES

[1] Durand, "Extracts from Report on the Islands and Antiques of Bahrain," 000
with notes by H. C. Rawlinson, in *Journal of Royal Asiatic Society*, 1880.

[2] de Goeje, M. J., *Memoire sur les Carmathes du Bahrain et les Fatimides*, 1886.

[3] Idrisi, *Troisieme Climat-Sixieme Section*, translated by P. A. Jaubert, p. 373.

[4] Belgrave, C. D., "The Portuguese in the Bahrain Islands," *Journal Royal Central Asian Society*, 1935.

[5] Whose work is in the possession of a Bahraini historian.

[6] An-Nabhani, Muhammad, *Tarikh al-Jazirat al-Arabiya*, 1923, p. 125.

[7] Kennier, J. M., *Memoire on the Persian Empire*.

[8] For details of this and subsequent treaties between the Bahrain rulers and the British *see* Aitcheson, *Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and neighbouring countries*, vol. xi, 1933.

Part III.—AROUND BAHRAIN.

MANAMA

361 THE capital of Bahrain, Manama, with a population, in 1950, of 39,648, is situated on the low lying coast at the north end of Bahrain Island. Most parts of the town are only two or three feet above sea level and close below the ground there is brackish water which accounts for the excessive humidity during the summer. The town extends for 1½ miles along the northern shore and about the same distance down 103 the east coast. Although Manama, which means "The Place of Sleeping," is known to have existed in the 15th century and is mentioned by the Portuguese, it contains no ancient buildings, and possibly the oldest relic of the past is the tomb of Shaikh Ahmed al-Khalifah, who conquered Bahrain in 1782, situated near the Awal Cinema.

The most attractive view of Manama is from the sea. Approaching the port from Saudi Arabia one sees a long line of tall, white houses with deep-shadowed verandahs, rising above the brilliantly coloured water. Around the Customs Pier, which extends for a quarter of a mile into the sea, there are usually 70 or 80 local sailing craft and launches whose crews and cargoes fill the pier to overflowing. The skyline of the town is broken by two or three minarets, the tallest being that of the Juma Mosque, while on the shore to the east of the town can be seen the graceful wind-towers which were used to catch the breeze before the days of electric fans and air-conditioning.

342 Most of the houses are built from coral stone, quarried from the bed of the sea at low tide, plastered and painted white. A noticeable feature of Bahrain architecture is the use of large flat sheets of coral stone set between masonry pillars in the walls of the houses. In some districts of the town there are still numbers of "barastis", huts made of palm branches, but these are rapidly being replaced by stone and cement houses.

361 344 The centre of the town is Shaikh Sulman Square with, on the north, the Pier and the Customs premises and on the south "Bab al-Bahrain," the Gate of Bahrain, a large block of Government offices with an archway in the centre leading through to the principal street in the bazaar. In the centre of the Square is a circular garden, the walls of which are made from cement panels decorated with traditional Bahraini designs, 366 443 arabesques, of pleasing appearance. The bazaar extends for some distance on each side of Barrett Road, the main street. To its west are the Municipal Buildings and an open market where, on Wednesday mornings, the people of the villages bring their produce to sell.

The Manama bazaar rightly claims to be the emporium of the Gulf, it contains both narrow streets of picturesque little shops, full

of colour and Arab life, and large modern stores stocked with every 366
type of goods from America, Europe and the East. The spice bazaar, 443
the second-hand bazaar behind the Municipality and the shops of the
metal workers are typically oriental ; the stores in the larger streets
with plate glass windows and fixed prices stock a wide range of modern
goods which are generally cheaper than elsewhere in the Gulf owing to
the low customs duty. Apart from pearls, mother-of-pearl, gold and
silver thread embroidery and model dhows there are few purely local
products for visitors to buy. The best way to see the bazaar is on foot,
it provides innumerable subjects for photos and neither here nor anywhere
else in Bahrain is there any objection to the taking of photos.

To the south-west of the town is the Qalat ad-Diwan, beyond it, 361
along Awal Road, is the Isolation Hospital, the Public Health Department 517
and a number of blocks of flats. Opposite them is a large garden
with two miniature lakes, known as the Water Garden ; this is a popular 368
place during summer evenings. Beyond the flats is the Mental Hospital.
It is probable that within the next few years this area will undergo
extensive development.

To the south-east is the district of Manama known as Quadabiya, 361
up to a few years ago an area of barren sand and swamp land where
mosquitos bred but which today is rapidly developing into a residential 368
and entertainment centre. Going along Belgrave Road one
passes the Secondary School and Hostel, the Palace and, where the road
joins Jufair Road, many houses and bungalows occupied by employees
of European commercial firms. Jufair Road then passes the Race
Course and Gymkhana Club and terminates in the suburbs of Umm
a-Hasan and Jufair; at the latter are the headquarters of the Senior
British Naval Officer, Persian Gulf and H.B.M.'s Political Residency.

In the modern districts of Manama there are many wide and well 363
surfaced roads, lined with tree-shaded pavements, while here and there
in the town waste plots of land have been made into little gardens with
benches, lawns and fountains. Along the water-front runs Sea Road, [491]
joining the Muharraq Causeway with the State Hospital at its western
end. The Muharraq Causeway took ten years to build, for it served
as a relief project when there was unemployment in Bahrain. The
Shaikh Hamed Swing Bridge was completed in 1942 by Messrs.
Holloways Bros. Many of the principal buildings and offices in
Bahrain are on the Sea Road and Prior Road, which is an inland road
running parallel to it. In former times the sea extended far into the [653]
town, south even of Prior Road, but during the past twenty-five years
much of the sea-shore has been reclaimed. In Muharraq similar
work can be seen in progress, but in an earlier stage of development.

In the evenings, the busiest part of Manama is Belgrave Road 517
and the part of Quadabiya to its east where there are four cinemas [368]
and many coffee-shops, as well as football fields. At sunset the people
of the town can be seen strolling along the road to Jufair, or sitting
on the benches that line the pavements, later returning to the cinemas

517 and coffee-shops. This activity continues until about eleven o'clock
especially in the summer when it is pleasanter to be out in the open
air than indoors.

377 Manama is supplied with electric light from the Government Power
House, situated on the point at the north-east end of Manama. The
655 town water supply, also a Government concern, comes from artesian
365 wells in what used to be the Municipal Garden from where it is pumped
into large tanks high above Manama and from there distributed by
312 mains to all parts of the town and to numerous drinking fountains and
public baths. This water system, which was installed by Holloway
Bros., was completed in 1949, before this the water came from private
and public artesian wells and was distributed by water carriers.

QASARI

491 It is logical in describing Bahrain to leave Manama by the main
road, Awal Road, but a more interesting drive can be taken by following
the 2nd class road which branches off from Awal Road beyond the
361 Mental Hospital. After passing through a number of villages of
312 comparatively little interest the road comes to a shaded lane bordered
on one side by a lake. This is Ain al-Qasari, whose pool, although
529 more extensive than that at Adari, is shallow and therefore unsuitable for swimming. Here there is a garden and a pleasant little house overlooking the pool, admittance to which is free, which is much frequented by picnicers. In the pool there are fish, some of which are as much as eighteen inches in length, as well as turtles. These are so accustomed to visitors that when people walk along the edge of the water or sit in the house, they swim lazily to the surface, waiting to be thrown pieces of bread or food. In a country consisting mostly of desert, and where a small and dirty pool usually constitutes the local water supply, the attractive appearance of Ain al-Qasari, particularly at sunset, is very agreeable.

296 There are in fact two springs called Qasari, the second, situated on Awal Road, is better known by the name of the "Dhobis Pool" on account of the large numbers of Indian washermen who mercilessly beat the dirty clothes on slabs of rock, and when they have finished hang them out to dry in long lines by the side of the road. It is a not unusual sight to round a corner of the road and to see before one lines of clothes, billowing in the breeze like wind-socks, and the frantic activity of the dhobis standing in the water in an odd array of clothing attempting to finish their task and dry the laundry before the sun sets.

BILAD AL-QADIM

361 A short way beyond Ain al-Qasari is Bilad al-Qadim, literally "The Old Town," formerly the capital of Bahrain, which lies between the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, whose twin minarets are a landmark for navigators, and the Khor Mukhtar inlet on the east coast. Bilad al-Qadim can also be approached from Awal Road opposite the Suq

al-Khamis Mosque and half a mile south of the village there is an inlet of the sea which can be crossed at low tide by a ford which leads to the village of Tubli. 361

Bilad al-Qadim is a Shiite village and was the capital of Bahrain before the Arab conquest of the Islands. It is frequently referred to in local Shiite histories and is described but not named in a number of early Moslem writings. A large area of the town is now in ruins, but its walls and mounds show that it was once a place of considerable size and importance. According to local reports the sandy mound near the School opposite Suq al-Khamis Mosque is all that remains of the fort that protected the town, while the mosque itself was its Friday Mosque. The Thursday Market (Suq al-Khamis), after which the district takes its name, is probably a relic of the time when this was the capital of Bahrain and when goods were brought here from the country for sale, just as today the Wednesday Market serves the same purpose in Manama.

There are several well-known springs in the vicinity, including Qasari, which has already been mentioned, the Dhobi Pool and Abu Zaidan. A relic of the old town still stands in the shape of Masjid ar-Rafia, a mosque built over a spring, which is on the west side of the town and contains an ancient Kufic inscription. Date groves and gardens surround the town but many of the inhabitants work in Manama, where some of them own shops. The white buildings in the clearing opposite the Suq al-Khamis Mosque are a Government Boys School and a dispensary. [312]

ADARI

"The Lido of Bahrain" is a description which is often used for Ain Adari (The Virgin's Pool). It is especially applicable in the summer when every evening buses, cars, lorries and bicycles convey people from Manama to the deep, cool blue waters of the pool where they swim or sit about in the public garden or coffee-shop. Adari is the largest natural spring in Bahrain and the stream which flows from it irrigates many acres of gardens. 312 529

Adari was once a very messy pool where camels and donkeys were watered, but it has been developed by the government into a bathing place. The sides of the pool have been lined with cement and provided with steps, there is a mosque, a coffee shop, bathing huts and diving boards, and around the pool a flower garden where oleandar, bougainvillea and ponciana flourish. The road to Adari, which branches off Awal Road, is indicated by a sign-post about half a mile south of Suq al-Khamis. [491]

UPPER AND LOWER SEHLAH

These are two villages on opposite sides of Awal Road. Upper Sehlah is a small village of stone and barasti houses built on a hill overlooking the surrounding gardens; in summer the village expands when the date pickers descend on the village and put up their barastis. 361 245 221

361 when the date pickers descend on the village and put up their barastis. 245 Lower Sehlah is reached by a bridge across the water channel that borders the Manama-Awali Road. This village is surrounded by date gardens and can also be reached by a footpath from Adari. The gardens in the neighbourhood of the two villages are among the best and most thriving in Bahrain, and the date groves are locally described as the hump of Bahrain, not because they rise above the surrounding lands but on account of their being the richest and most fertile in the islands.

AALI

361 After leaving the palm belt and entering the plain north of Rifaa, thick smoke can usually be seen rising from among some date gardens to the west, this is the village of Aali, one of the largest in Bahrain. It lies on the western edge of the plain which extends from the end of the date gardens at the bridge of Radhm al-Qawari to the Rifaa hills, and is close to a group of the largest tumuli in Bahrain which are a conspicuous feature of the landscape of Bahrain island. The largest mounds in the Aali group are over 80 feet high and 100 feet in diameter. [491] The best road to Aali is the one indicated by the sign-post on Awal Road, a short distance from Radhm al-Qawari. The houses of this [542] village are better than in most of the Bahrain villages; they are large and airy and some of them have blocks of stone from the tombs in their walls. As in the case of so many Bahrain villages, Aali stands on a slight elevation surrounded by date gardens.

RIFAA AL-GHARBI

644 361 Straddling Awal Road on the edge of the rim-rock is the town of West Rifaa, the winter residence of H.H. The Ruler of Bahrain as well as of many of his family and retainers. This settlement is comparatively modern, having been built by the present Ruler before he succeeded in 1942. Constructed in the traditional Arab pattern, the Palace is in the centre of the town and the other houses are widely scattered about it. The Ruler's love of gardens has caused the road to be lined with trees, and it is a pleasant surprise on coming across the desert surrounding the town to pass through a shady green avenue. During the three months of the Summer the Ruler lives in Manama, but as soon as the cool weather returns a long procession of cars and lorries moves slowly out of Rifaa, the lights go on, and overnight the appearance of West Rifaa is changed from a deserted town to a scene of much activity.

RIFAA ASH-SHARQI

361 712 This is the fourth largest town in Bahrain and has a population of about 3,000. East Rifaa is without doubt the most picturesque of Bahrain's towns and villages. When approached from the west, from the plain near Awali, the fortress, which dominates the valley, presents a most romantic appearance and carries one's thoughts back

to the days when the Rulers of Bahrain lived here and ruled the Islands 361
from the castle. Below the fortresss is the spring of Hanani, whose 712
water is the best in Bahrain, and a plain where, in the rainy season, a [312]
small lake forms and on disappearing leaves in its place a bright lawn of grass. Rifaa has been expanding rapidly during recent years, the town is spreading to the south-east, and it now possesses boys' and girls' schools and a Municipality. Some members of the Ruling Family still live in the town which has expanded owing to the development of the oil industry, in which some 500 of its male inhabitants are working.

The situation of the town is ideal for strategical purposes, from it 7/2
it is possible to see Manama, Muharraq and Sitra while the land around 132
it is free of vegetation which could have served to hide the enemy. It has an excellent climate and is drier than Manama in the summer. To the north of the town are two small graves where members of the Khalifah family are buried; these fell in battle during a civil war which took place in the 19th century.

There is a tradition connected with the fortress of Rifaa. It is 173
said to have been built in the 17th century by the Wazir of the then Ruler, a certain Shaikh Jabbara. For years the Ruler and his wazir worked together, but one day the Shaikh was told about the beauty of the wazir's wife, and he desired her. He was tricked into believing that he had visited her, though in fact he was entertained by her maidservant. He was so angry at the deception, about which the wazir knew nothing, that he killed him. The Wazir's widow thereupon fled from Rifaa to the mainland, from where she wrote to the Shah of Persia sending him a minature palm tree of pearls and gold and saying that so rich was Bahrain that such a tree was given to a child as a toy. She succeeded in exciting the avarice of the Persian Shah, who sent an army to Bahrain, defeated and killed Shaikh Jabbara, and annexed the Islands to Persia, thus avenging the Wazir's wife. This same Shaikh Jabbara is said to have lived in the fort of Amr, south-east of the Jebel, which is mentioned in Chapter VIII.

There is a third Rifaa, a small community built by BAPCO for 361
its Indian and Pakstani employees; this is mentioned in the Chapter on Bahrain's Oil.

AWALI

Meaning "The High Places," this name was given by Shaikh [103]
Hamed, the late Ruler of Bahrain, to the oil camp when it was first established in its present location. Before the oil company arrived 361
in Bahrain the site was deserted—for who would live in the middle of 382
a waterless desert ? But the company wanted to build their town near the oil field, and so the small, 240 foot, hill was chosen. Today Awali somewhat resembles a London surburb or a small American town. As in London, varied gardens and different coloured exteriors of the houses serve to disguise their basic similarity. In these gardens children play while their mothers chat to each other over the fences. Happy

361 382 [162] laughter comes from the Club House Swimming Bath and in the evenings sports of all kinds take place inside the camp. Today Awali is a town of some 400 houses inhabited by 2,000 Europeans and Americans. Shady trees line the roads and in fact there is little to suggest the presence of oil. The roads are surfaced with it, but otherwise it is not visible, though oil is the *raison d'etre* of this town set in such an inhospitable situation, to which water has to be piped from miles away and where to plant a tree a pneumatic drill is required to pierce the rock on which the town is built.

SAKHIR

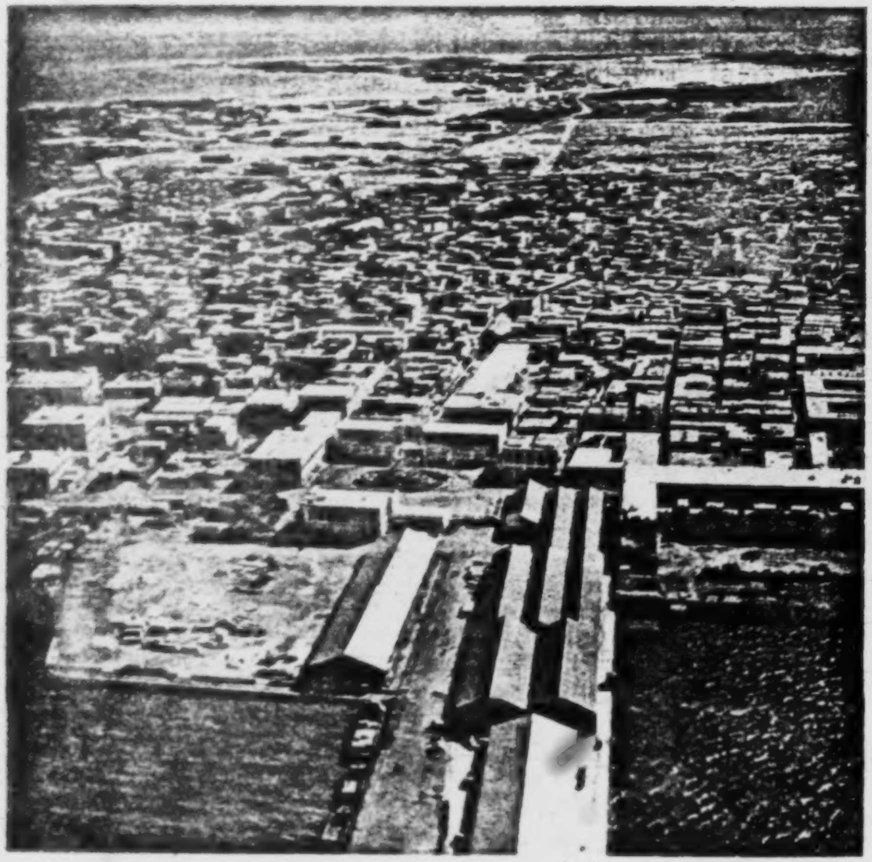
361 Driving from Awali to Zellaq the traveller will notice a group of large buildings on the south of the road near the foot of the Jebal. This is Sakhir, founded by Shaikh Muhammad bin Khalifa (1843-67, d. 1890), but the majority of buildings which exist today were built by the late Ruler of Bahrain. The present Ruler makes little use of Sakhir, and the attractive mosques, balconied dwelling houses and high roofed rooms are now deserted ; the only human beings who remain are the Bedouin in charge of the horses and camels which are still kept there. The climate of Sakhir is excellent and in the spring there are fields of grass which provide grazing both for domestic animals, gazelle and hare. When Sakhir was occupied Saluqis were much in evidence, Shaikh Hamed was a great lover of this fine breed of dogs and his [486] favourite hound, Housha, followed him wherever he went. It should be remembered that Sakhir is the private property of the Ruler, from whom permission must be obtained before it is visited.

JEBAL AD-DUKHAN

133 The "Mountain" of Bahrain has already been mentioned in the Introduction, but it deserves further notice. From its peak, which is marked by a trigonometry marker, it is possible to see, on a clear day, the entire area of Bahrain from Manama and Muharraq on the north to Ras al-Barr, while on the east and west the sea is even nearer. From the peak an excellent bird's eye view of Awali can be seen, and, at night, the flares at Dhahran and at Dukhan in Qatar are visible. The strange formation of the island, with the rim-rock and the central depression can be seen from the Jebal. At the head of a wadi facing towards Awali is the Jebal cave, some 15 × 35 × 6 ft., which is hollowed out of the rock, probably by water erosion for the fantastic patterns on the walls would seem to point to nature's rather than man's handiwork.

JAW AND DOUR (DAR AL-MANADIL)

361 On the east coast of Bahrain about a mile south of the highest peak of the Jebal are the villages of Dour and Jaw, similar in character and appearance and the southernmost inhabited villages on the east coast [342] of Bahrain. The villages are about a mile apart and both are on the shore, they consist of a poor type of stone and gypsum hut inhabited



Aerial view of central Manama looking from the north. In the foreground is the Customs Pier, Shaikh Sulman Square and Bab al-Bahrain.

Photo :
Bahrain Government.

367'

A Public Garden in Manama. Photo : The Author

712

The Manama Fort.

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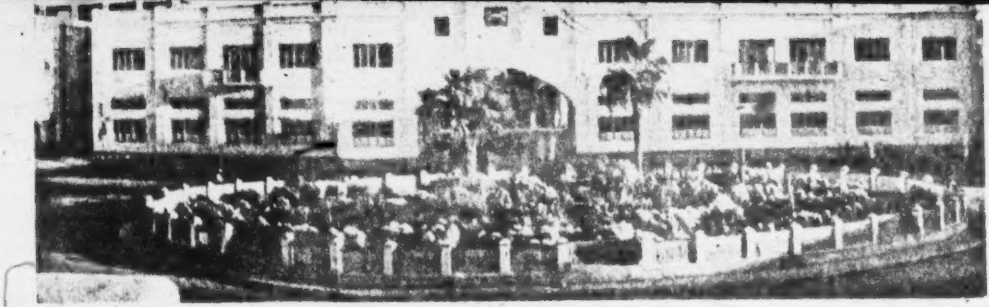
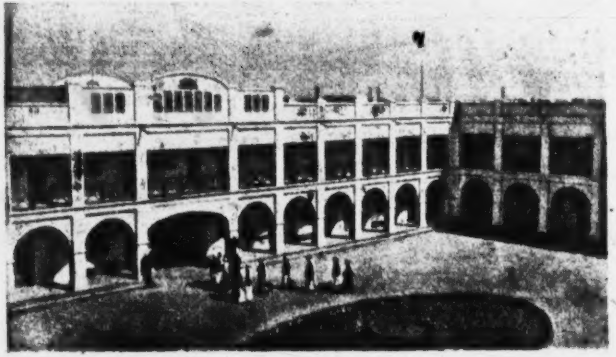
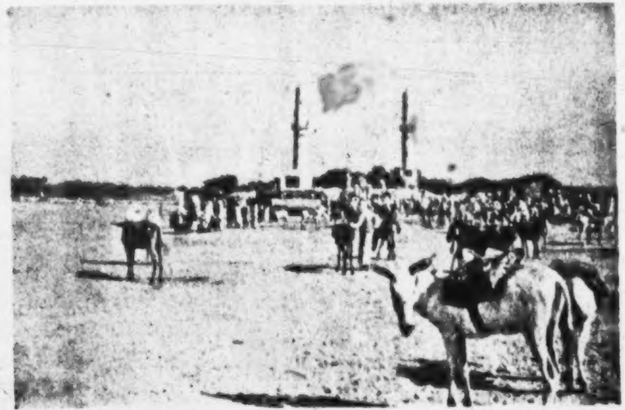


Shaikh Sulman Square and the Bab al-Bahrain. Photo : K. P. Narayan.



Bahrain Government Students' Hostel. *Photo : Sir Charles Belgrave.*



The Suq al-Khamis Market with the Mosque in the background. Photo : The Author.

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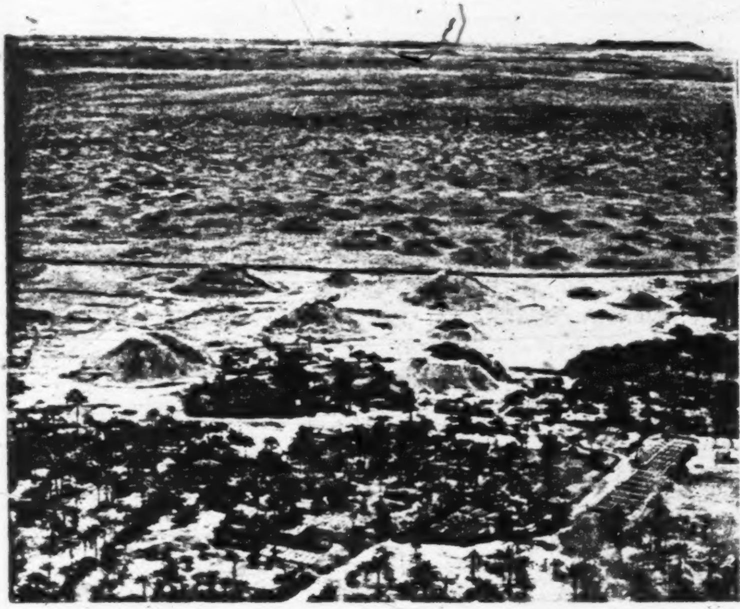

Aerial view of the tumuli of Aali. In the background, to the right of the photo, the Jebel ad-Dukhan can be seen.

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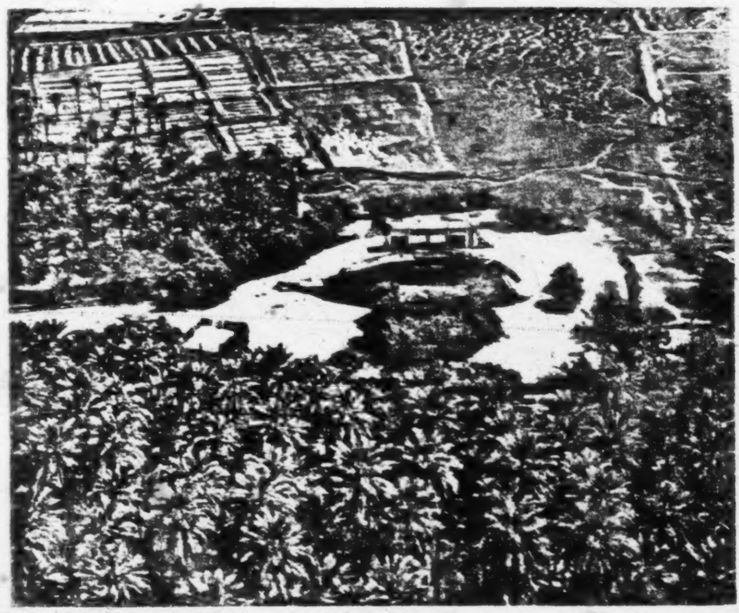

Adari Pool.

by Sunni Arabs who were prosperous when the pearling industry flourished 361
but who depend today upon fishing, the oil company and transporting
jus from Hawar for their living. In the summer the heat and [312]
the shortage of water (for although Jaw has a well it is brackish and
more to the taste of the date palms that grow around it than to the
people) drive most of the inhabitants to migrate to Sitra. Jaw was
once spread some distance along the shore, as can be seen from the
ruins that surround it, and in addition to having been a pearling centre
it was inhabited by the people of Zubara when they wanted to escape
the tyrannical rule of the Wahhabis in the 19th century. Jaw is the 625
point on Bahrain nearest to Zubara and the Qatar coast, and for that 167
reason it was always garrisoned when there was a threat to Bahrain
from the mainland, but today the Police Camel Corps, which is stationed 361
there, is to prevent the smuggling into Bahrain of Arabs from the
Trucial Coast who come seeking work.

North of Jaw on the road to the Refinery is Asker and opposite it 778
the island of Mushaikha, where an old tomb is the centre of pilgrimage
for one of the Moslem sects, the Buharas. The interior of the
tomb is filled with bottles of rose water, brought by pilgrims as offerings.
Asker itself is a village much like Jaw and Dour.

JIDHAFS

We must now return to Manama and follow the other road that [491]
leads out of the town, this time in the direction of Budaiya. After
passing through some miles of gardens the road reaches Jidhafs, a large 361
village, which is also said to have been at one time the capital of Bahrain. 778
Its inhabitants have a reputation for being enterprising and go-ahead,
they have recently demonstrated this by deciding to build a club, the
first in any of the villages, although in the towns there are many.
Jidhafs contains one of the Shiite Juma Mosques and Friday Prayer
is said there. It may seem strange that this should be a claim to fame,
but according to Moslem custom only certain mosques are used for the
Friday Prayers which is intended to encourage large congregations
and to prevent the dispersal of the faithful in all the other mosques.

Like all the villagers, those of Jidhafs enjoy a visit to the town every 517
now and then, and in the evenings bus loads of men and many cyclists
can be seen coming in to town to enjoy themselves by going to the cinema 369
or sitting gossiping with their friends in the coffee-shops to the blare
of wireless music.

South of Jidhafs in the direction of Suq al-Khamis is the village of 361
Ain al-Dar; although today it presents a quiet and peaceful appearance
it was once the headquarters of a notorious gang of robbers who used 579
a ruined house, inhabited by a lunatic, as a cache for storing their loot.

BUDAIYA

This strange town, on the north-western tip of Bahrain Island, is 361
connected with Manama by a good motor road which runs through
the village of Jidhafs. Budaiya used to be a large town, divided into 491
Two quarters still spoken of as North and South Budaiya.

000 two quarters still spoken of as North and South Budaiya. It[1] was the
[556] home of the Dawasir tribe who came to Bahrain shortly after it was
conquered by the al-Khalifah and established themselves here. The
361 tribe acquired great wealth and prestige, owning many pearling dhows,
167 and by degrees they became so powerful that they were able to raid
with impunity the neighbouring Bahrana villages. They even
challenged the authority of the al-Khalifah, but Shaikh Hamed, on
becoming Deputy Ruler in 1924, threatened to punish them if they did
not behave. This they considered as an infringement of their liberties
and they therefore announced to the Ruler that if he prevented them
behaving as they were accustomed, they would leave Bahrain and
settle in Saudi Arabia. Shaikh Hamed refused to give way and the
Dawasir left Bahrain. This, however, was not the last of them, for during
many years it was believed that they were preparing to invade Bahrain.
To prevent this a force was maintained in the Islands. However, the
scare eventually died down and Budaiya after lying deserted, was later
partly re-occupied by other Bahrainis, while some of the Dawasir
gradually returned, many of them settling in Manama and Muharraq.

361 The ruins of great houses and mosques still remain, while scattered
between them are the houses of the new inhabitants, who do much
fishing in the prolific waters near the town, and also work in Manama
and Awali. Before reaching the Police Post that marks the entrance
[654] to Budaiya the road passes through the Government Experimental
Garden where new agricultural methods are tried and where cows and
sheep, kept under scientific conditions, are studied for their product-
504 ivity. From the Budaiya Pier launches go to Jidda, the prison island,
697 many of whose inmates come over daily to work in the Budaiya Garden.
The Pier is also used by the Ruler when he visits his island of Umm
an-Nasaan.

874 The small Government school at Budaiya just south of the Govern-
ment gardens, in addition to teaching the usual Primary School subjects
872 gives lessons in agriculture for many of the boys' fathers own or work
in gardens in the neighbourhood.

DIRAZ

361 Diraz is a village about half a mile north of the Budaiya Road
342 and about 1½ miles from Budaiya itself. It consists mainly of stone
houses, many of which are two-storied. The village stands on
345 high ground among the sand dunes and is very similar to Beni Jumra
which faces it a little way off on the opposite side of the road. It
is so surrounded by clumps of date palms that its size is not appreciated
from the road. A feature noticeable here, as well as in many other parts
of Bahrain, is that date palms grow in groups at the bottom of depressions in the sand and are not irrigated by water channels but obtain
moisture from below the surface of the ground.

172 North-west of the village there are mounds which indicate the
existence of a much larger settlement in the past and an extensive area
of ground is covered with glass and pottery sherds. Among the ruins

[1] [The town of Budaiya . . Analyst]

there is a deep depression surrounded by large blocks of stone which 172
was once a great spring said to have irrigated much of north-western Bahrain. This spring, known as Ain Sejour, is traditionally associated with the name of the Caliph Abd al-Malik (685-705) who is reputed to have come to Bahrain with an army to chastise the people who had given refuge to politico-religious refugees from Iraq. According to local histories the Bahrainis worsted the invaders in a war by a clever use of the underground water channels and a truce was signed. Later the Caliph is said to have murdered the Bahraini leaders and to have filled in this well "to reduce the pride of the people of Bahrain," since then it has been dry and the land around it has reverted to desert. It seems unlikely that the Caliph himself came to Bahrain, he probably sent one of his generals and later tradition ascribed the leadership to the Caliph himself.

Several well-to-do families own houses in Diraz, and when pearling 228
flourished its people were important nakhudas (captains) and pearl 288
merchants. Many of the villagers are still divers and keep their boats 554
on the shore near the little mosque north of Budaiya Garden. For use in these boats the villagers weave their own sail-cloth on local looms.

JESRA

On the edge of the open plain about 4 miles south of Budaiya is 315
Jesra, the point where the pipeline from Arabia crosses to Bahrain,
here also is a village whose Arab inhabitants are mainly retainers of the 361
Ruling Family. Several Shaikhs have also built substantial houses 491
in the village, as well as gardens irrigated from artesian wells. Another road leads from Jesra to Rifaa al-Gharbi, following the route of the pipeline across the desert.

MALAKIYA

Four miles south of Jesra the road, after passing through the villages 361
of Karzakan and Dumistan, enters the little village of Malakiya, set
in the centre of thriving date gardens, some of which belong to merch- 778
ants in Manama. The only claim to interest in this village is a large tomb which is held in great veneration by the Shia community of Bahrain and is visited by pilgrims from all parts of the Islands. The tomb is of a certain Amir Zaid, but there is some difference of opinion about his identity. Some contend that he was Zaid bin Sohan, one of the Companions of the Prophet, but according to other local authorities he was a certain Amir Zaid bin Umaira al-Abdi who witnessed a covenant of truce made between the people of the Islands and al-Mua'lla bin al-Hadrami, the Moslem conqueror of Bahrain. A third version is that the worthy Amir was the leader of the people of Bahrain in a war that took place between them and the Caliph Abd al-Malik (See paragraph on Diraz). It has not yet been decided which of these versions is in fact the true one, but this does not deter Shia pilgrims from visiting Malakiya.

ZELLAQ

361 South again of Malakiya is Zellaq, the southernmost village on the
342 western Coast of Bahrain and approximately three miles west of
Sakhir. A road runs from Zellaq to Awali and is much used by BAPCO
employees coming to swim at the former place. The houses of Zellaq
village, which are of stone, are built along the shore and many of them
are large and spacious. As a result of the activities of BAPCO, Zellaq
village has increased in size and prosperity and now contains a number
of substantial white stone buildings which are conspicuous from a
long distance across the flat and sandy plain that surrounds it.

162 The inhabitants of Zellaq are Sunni Arabs; some are from the
Dawasir tribe, and many of them are dependents of the Ruling Family.
311 North of the village there are a number of large gardens, irrigated
by innumerable artesian wells, which are owned by members of the
Ruling Family and by their servants; these gardens form a green belt
along the two miles of coast between Zellaq and Sedad.

312 The Bahrain Petroleum Company has a pump house at Zellaq
which supplies Awali with much of its water and Zellaq was also once
the discharging point for tankers bringing crude oil from Saudi
517 Arabia, before the submarine pipe-line was laid. Near the pumping
station is the BAPCO Plage, the excellent bathing place which is much
used by the employees of BAPCO, particularly in the Summer
evenings.

RAS AL-BARR

529 This, the southernmost point of the Bahrain islands, is a popular
484 place for summer picnics, but the approaches to it are difficult, and
although never dangerous they can easily cause trouble to visitors by
491 the softness of the sand. It is best to travel in parties with not less
than two cars, so that one can come to the help of the other if necessary,
and care should be taken to keep to the tracks, however faintly indicated
rather than to carve out new roads in the desert. The road to Ras
al-Barr from Zellaq first passes through Mutalla, the Ruler's hunting
lodge, while that from Awali past the Jebel passes another hunting
lodge at Rumaitha before joining the Western road at Akala. From
here the road goes south, past the swamps on the coast and along the
narrow strip of sand which marks the end of the island.

136 In certain seasons of the year the shores along this part of Bahrain
are covered with the eggs of sea-birds, and many Arab dhows anchor
262 off the coast while the crews remove the eggs for food. If one is
lucky, while driving down the coast, hare and gazelle may be seen,
as well as rose-tinted flamingoes on the shore.

MUHARRAQ ISLAND

MUHARRAQ

491 The visitor from Manama approaches Muharraq by crossing the
486 1½ mile long causeway and Shaikh Hamed Bridge, completed in 1942,

which opens at 11 a.m. and at midnight, for an hour, to allow the passage 491
of vessels through the deep channel between the two islands. There 486
is a toll gate at the bridge and cars coming from Muharraq to Manama
are charged 4 annas. Beyond the bridge, around a group of white 344
buildings, the Customs House, Police Station and Municipal Office,
there is always a scene of much activity. Here boats unload their
cargoes and buses fill with passengers bound for all parts of the Islands.
The sea road continues along the water front until it turns inland to-
wards the airport. Much of the ground inside the sea road has [857]
not yet been reclaimed and at high tide the sea forms little squares
of still water where children sail home-made boats. On Muharraq
sea front there are several important buildings, a government dispensary,
a large school and, at the northern corner, a block of flats.

Another road, opposite the causeway, runs up into the town passing 491
through the bazaars, which branch off to the north and south. The
Muharraq shops are of the old fashioned type, with neither plate glass 443
nor fixed prices. There are antique dealers and carpet sellers and all the
usual traders found in Arab towns. Ships chandlers are numerous
as Muharraq has always been a sea faring centre. Arab chests, carved
or brass bound, carpets, worked leather sandals, divers' equipment
and goods of interest to tourists can be bought here at prices lower
after judicious bargaining, than those in Manama.

Today Muharraq is still a typically Arab town, a fact of which its 361
inhabitants are proud. Most of the shops are owned by Arabs and
are not occupied by Indians or Persians as in Manama. The town,
although it was once the capital of Bahrain, the centre of the pearl
industry and the focus of trade (a fact that its inhabitants remember
with pride) has developed more slowly than Manama. There are few
modern buildings, only one cinema and no large European style shops,
but its climate is said to be pleasanter than Manama and it is not so
humid in the summer. Muharraq was once a walled town but no traces
of the walls now remain. The high old houses which line the narrow 342
streets have changed little during the last century, except where corners
have been cut away to make passages for large American cars. Many of
the larger houses belong to the Ruling Family. They are built around
courtyards and in some cases a big house contains three or four such
courtyards, surrounded by high walls with few outward-looking
windows in them to screen the house from prying eyes.

Muharraq has a telephone service, electric light, a Post Office 361
and a filling station, but no main water supply, apart from artesian 633
wells. As in the case of Manama, the affairs of the town are controlled
by an elected Municipal Council presided over by a member of the
Ruling Family.

The sea surrounds the town on three sides but at the northern 361
end a new residential area is developing on land which is being sold by
the Municipality for building purposes. East of the town is the bay
of Arad, the ancient name for Muharraq at the time of Alexander,

361 and on the shore there is an old deserted fort which was built by the Omanis during a short period when they occupied the Islands. A [504] ferry service of small sailing boats plies between Muharraq and Arad fort, but to drive round the bay to the fort by car takes less time than crossing by boat.

396 Boat building is one of the few local industries of Muharraq and is carried out along the shores of the town, especially on the eastern coast. Carpenters and shipwrights are apt to extend their work half across the road and when driving a car one often has to avoid sails which are pegged out for joining or for repairs, rope winders, men mending nets or carpenters working on big wooden water tanks for the pearling dhows.

361 Many visitors to Bahrain never enter Muharraq and by failing to do 178 so they miss the sight of a comparatively untouched Arab town, a sight that is rapidly becoming rarer in the oil rich Persian Gulf.

HEDD

361 Bahrain's number three town is Hedd. Long and narrow, it is built on a strip of land which juts out into the sea at the south-east end of Muharraq Island. The houses are closely packed together and extend right to the edge of the sea, one road, only just wide enough for motor vehicles, runs through the centre of the town and on each side a labyrinth of narrow lanes leads down to the shore. There are few barastis in Hedd and most of the people live in stone houses ; some of them are large, built by pearl merchants in the days when the pearl industry of which Hedd was an important centre, was flourishing. The bazaar is in the main street and it contains many shops which sell all manner of goods. Water is supplied to the town by several artesian wells.

[162] The population of Hedd is entirely Sunni and predominantly Arab, although a few of the shopkeepers are Persians. It includes Arabs of the Bin Ali, Saada, Mesedem and Musallam tribes who used to be very influential in Bahrain ; the last were once the rulers of Qatar. Hedd was originally a diving town but although it still has much contact with the sea, many of its inhabitants work on shore. Its people have a reputation for intelligence and energy and this is shown by the fact that they have produced better results from their schools than any other community. The town is conspicuously clean, owing partly to the fact that it is surrounded by the sea on three sides.

368 Hedd has a handsome new police station, at the entrance to the 633 town, which was completed in 1952, a Municipality and Boys' and Girls' Schools which were opened in 1937 and 1939 respectively. For some years the Muharraq Municipality included Hedd in its activities but in 1945 Hedd formed its own elected Municipal Council with four members. There is also in Hedd a dispensary and a small women's hospital with accommodation for a certain number of in-patients. 226 Hedd is famous for its prawns which are caught in special traps and sent to the fish markets of Manama and Muharraq.

There is a bus service between Hedd and Muharraq and also a few taxi cabs in the town. 494

In addition to the towns of Muharraq and Hedd the island of Muharraq is fringed by many villages ; going north round the coast from Muharraq town they include Busatin, Dair, Raiya, Galali and Arad. The first three villages contain many homes of members of the Ruling Family and are especially popular in the summer when the Muharraq weather is considered superior to that of Manama. Galali is a sizeable village inhabited by fishermen and industrial workers, while Arad is the centre of the agriculture of the island and is built near a large pool in the centre of the date gardens on Arad peninsular. The inhabitants of the village work in the gardens, but on the shores of the Bay near the old Omani fort is a large village built entirely of barastis. In the summer this temporary village is entirely filled with people from Muharraq who spend the nights here, crossing by ferry every day to Muharraq town. 361

In general Muharraq island is very low-lying, so much so that it was thought at one time that there was a danger of the sea affecting the efficiency of the Airport, but this has been removed by pumping stations around the field which remove, when necessary, surplus water from the runways. It was, however, found necessary to build a raised road from Muharraq town to Hedd, for when there was any rain or an exceptionally high tide the road was often blocked. 133 491

UMM ASH-SHAGAR ISLANDS AND UMM ASH-SHIYAIRA

These are the two islands that lie to the south of Hedd town; the former, to the north, is covered with small stone and barasti houses; the second, whose name is a diminutive of the first, contains only barastis and is inhabited by fishermen. 361 101

THE ISLANDS

In addition to these two, there are several other small islands south of Muharraq, of which the three largest, although none of them is more than a few hundred square yards in area, are Halat-as-Suluta, Halat-al-Khulaifat and Abu Mahur.

The first two islands lie to the south of Arad peninsular and at low tide they are joined by a sand-bar which permits walking between them. They contain small villages, whose people derive their livlihood from fishing, and they are lucky enough to have on them fresh water springs. Abu Mahur, the third and largest island, is in fact named after one of the largest of these springs, which is in the sea a short distance from the shore. The fort of Abu Mahur is now in ruins but the island is now used as a quarantine station. 361 226

The fresh water submarine springs south of Muharraq and the manner in which the people obtain water from them has astounded 312

312 many of the travellers who have visited the islands. Men with deflated
sheepskins dive down to the spring and place the mouth of the skin
over the place where the fresh water emerges ; the skin then fills with
fresh water and when full the diver comes to the surface. Before
artesian wells were drilled in Bahrain both Muharraq and Manama
obtained much of their water in this way, but today, owing to artesian
piped wells and water systems, the undersea springs are little used
except those to the north of Bahrain near the pearling banks. A
Turkish traveller who visited Bahrain in 1554, Sidi Ali, says of the submarine
springs, "The sailors provided with a leather sack, dive down
into the sea and bring the fresh water from the bottom for Rais Murad's
(the Governor of Bahrain) use. This water is particularly pleasant
and cold in spring time. God's Power is boundless !" There is a
173 legend concerning the spring of Abu Mahur which says that in the time
of the Caliph Merwan (684-685) a certain Ibn Hakim, a chief in Qatif,
wished to marry the lovely daughter of a Bahrain shaikh. His suit was
refused and so he attacked the islands and captured all the wells which
supplied the towns on Bahrain Island, but the guardian diety of the
Bahrainis caused the well Abu Mahur to appear in the sea near Muharraq
to succour his people.

NABIH SALIH

101 A most attractive island is Nabih Salih, set in the Khor-al-Kab
between Umm al-Hassan and the mainland of Bahrain. With its
529 thick cultivation, for the date palms run right down to the sea shore,
and its many springs, including a large pool much frequented by
[788] bathers, Nabih Salih is a very popular place for visitors. In addition
to its pool it is a place of pilgrimage for the Shia of Bahrain who go
to pay their respects to the tomb of Salih after whom the island is named.
The date palms of the island are particularly fine, they compare very favourably
with those elsewhere in Bahrain, which is mainly due to the
pool already mentioned, Safahiya, which irrigates much of the island.
[505] Nabih Salih can be visited by launch or sailing boat, the nearest point
to it on Bahrain is Ain al-Hakim ; boats can also be obtained from
Umm al-Hasan or from Sitra. People have been known to swim
to the island, but this is not the only way of getting there and in the
summer this method is inclined to be rather exhausting.

SITRA

[101] South of Nabih Salih and close to the coast of Bahrain is Sitra
361 Island, which in addition to its many villages and gardens contains
the Tank Farm and Drum Plant of BAPCO and the land end of the jetty.
The site of these installations is a strip of bare and often sea-swept
sands, but to the north of the island there are many gardens and a sizeable
pool, Ain Raha, which is much visited by the people of Muharraq
and Manama. Among the villages of North Sitra are Wadiyan, Sufala,
Kharijya and Kuriya. Near the third village is a school and police
station. To the south of the island is Umm al-Baidh, literally "Mother

of the Egg," a small village with many seafaring inhabitants. To 361
the north of Sitra there is a very pleasant sandy beach looking towards
Umm a-Hasan where there is excellent bathing; the view also includes
Nabih Salih and Jaziyra. There is deep water to the north of Sitra, [504]
and it is here that the Bahrain Government is building the new Port
of Manama with a pier running into deep water from the shore between
Umm al-Hasan and Jufair.

JIDDA

This island is about 2½ miles from Budaiya. It is small and rocky 101
and in appearance unlike any of the other Bahrain Islands. Its high 133
cliffs rise abruptly from the water and a few fort-like buildings are
silhouetted against the sky-line. On the south side of the island there
is a level strip of land which is extensively cultivated. Jidda is Bahrain's 697
penal settlement; here all long term prisoners are detained,
spending their time cutting stone, weaving and working in the gardens.
There is a small house on the top of the cliffs above the jetty which
catches all the wind in the summer and which is used by the Adviser
to the Bahrain Government. Being a prison island, Jidda is forbidden [486]
to general visitors.

The stone quarries at Jidda are of great age and it is likely that the 316
large stones which line the graves in the burial mounds were cut here.
There is an Arabic inscription roughly cut on one of the cliffs which
reads as follows :

"During the month of Shaban in the year 968 (April/May, 1561) there was completed the cutting of the 100,000th rock for the mending of the tower of the Bahrain fort in the wazirate of the Great Wazir Jilal ad-Din Murad Mahmud by the hand of the slave . . ." (a few words after this are unreadable).

UMM AN-NASAAN

This, the second largest of the Bahrain islands, lies a few miles 101
across the shallow water to the south of Jidda. It is sandy and flat, 133
with the exception of two small limestone hills towards its centre which
break the monotony of its shape. At the north end of the island there 312
are several natural springs and artesian wells from which extensive date
gardens are irrigated; they were planted by the late Ruler of Bahrain, [136]
H.H. Shaikh Hamed, who also established on the island a herd of black
buck and gazelle, the former being imported from India and the latter
from the mainland of Bahrain.

There is evidence of ancient habitations on Umm an-Nasan, foundations 172
of many old houses are visible and sherds of pottery can be picked
up. Local legend has it that Nasaan, after whom the island is named,
was one of the early rulers of Bahrain, but this legend has not been
substantiated by historical research.

HOWAR ISLANDS

101 This group of 16 islands is about twelve miles south-east of Ras
al-Barr. It consists of one large island, Howar itself, which is about
eleven miles long and a mile in breadth, and fifteen other islands much
smaller in size. In the centre of the main island there is a rocky
[361] eminence known as al-Jebal. There are only two villages, the larger
one at the northern end on the shore of the bay consists of stone huts
[625] with mat roofs (Kubbar); it also has a small mosque. The Bahrain
State Police maintain a garrison on the island, in a fort which dominates
162] the bay and from the roof of which the Qatar peninsular is visible.
The islands are inhabited by fishermen from Bahrain and also by men
[312] who come to cut gypsum which they sell in Bahrain. The water supply
of the island is very limited and consists of old cisterns cut out of
living rock which are filled by rain. Attempts to drill for water have
failed, but in the years when there is normal or plentiful rainfall the
133 island provides good grazing for camels and sheep. Fishing in the
bay is excellent, the water is comparatively deep and a launch can
503 come alongside the short jetty. The southern tip of the island is so
close to the Qatar coast that when the tide is out boats cannot pass
between the island and the shore, but at one place between Howar
and Qatar, a long narrow channel has been hewn out of the coral
sea bed to allow boats to pass through a shallow stretch of water.
This submarine canal was made by a certain Isa ibn Tarif, a notorious
pirate, who played an important part in the history of Bahrain during
the middle of the last century; he used the channel as a passage to his
fortress on the Qatar coast from where he sallied forth to attack the
shipping around Bahrain.

132 The climate of Howar is noticeably better than in Bahrain, it is
drier and cooler during the summer nights, but has no other amenities
to attract visitors fleeing from the dampness of Bahrain, and at present
its only visitors go there for work and not for pleasure.

ZUBARA

361 On the coast of the Qatar peninsular opposite the Bahraini village
172 of Jaw is the ruined town and the bay of Zubara, which has already
been mentioned in detail in the history of Bahrain in Part II. The
town of Zubara is on the east of the bay and stretches about 1½ miles
along the coast and 2 miles inland. The ruins of the town are still
impressive. The high wall which surrounds the wide straight streets
and the fine mosques, the obvious care with which the town was laid
out, speaks well for those who governed it. Further east of the town,
at a distance of about two miles across the desert, is the great fort;
some of the walls and the mosque are still standing. At the corners
of the walls are towers with slits for rifles and the domed roof of the
mosque presents an attractive picture. The whole building is made
from local stone and little gypsum was used in its construction. Within
the fort there are two wells one of which is dry, but the other still

contains a substantial amount of water which is protected from evapora- 361
tion by the narrowness of the well's neck. The Bahraini members of the 172
Naim tribe who live here do not occupy the fort but live in two villages
in the neighbourhood, which have the advantage of being near wells. 162
On the whole, however, Zubara is most unfertile, the soil is thick with
salt which appears on the surface and it is easy to see that the only
raison d'etre of the town was the sea and commerce. The fort itself
was once connected with the sea by a long, deep canal, some 100 feet
wide, which served the dual purpose of filling the moat about the fort
and permitting ships to approach it. Today the eastern section of the
canal has been filled in by sand, and the sea only reaches about 1½
miles inland.

Gazelle abound in Zubara, and also jackals. 136

Part IV.—USEFUL INFORMATION.

CHAPTER I

RECREATIONS

CINEMAS

546 THERE are in Bahrain a number of cinemas, both public and private, which show films in various languages, English, Arabic, Hindustani and occasionally French and Italian. The Bahrain Petroleum Company, through the medium of the BAPCO Club, has an open-air cinema and theatre at Awali, at the former there are nightly (except Sunday) performances of comparatively recent American and British films, the programmes changing twice a week. There is also under construction a large air-conditioned cinema and theatre to which there will be an entrance fee and which will not be restricted to the European employees of BAPCO but will also be open to the general public.

The five cinemas in Manama, the Awal, the Ahli, the Bahrain and the National in Qudabiya and the Pearl Cinema on Government Road near the Government Hospital, the Muharraq Cinema, although they show a majority of Arabic films, often have English language films and usually there are two such films running every evening in Manama and Muharraq. Details of the performances are obtainable by phoning the cinemas and it is usually possible for those interested to have cinema notices sent to them as they appear.

Of the cinemas in Manama and Muharraq, five are especially pleasant in the summer, for they are open-roofed and are consequently very cool. One cinema has two open-air performances every day in the summer and in the winter an indoors performance ; the sixth is air-conditioned.

536 There is no Bahrain theatre but there are a number of amateur dramatic clubs who give public shows from time to time.

CLUBS

575 *The Bahrain Club* (*Nadi al-Bahrain*). This is an Arab club in Muharraq with some 300 members and was founded in 1937 for cultural, social and sporting aims. The club has its own library with a large number of Arabic and English books and the latest newspapers and magazines. The members of the club are most interested in Arabic literature and have staged a number of plays. With the proceeds from the plays and with contributions from local merchants the club has been able to purchase its own buildings. Members of the club organize basket-ball and volley ball teams and also play a number of indoor sports.

The present premises of the club are to the north of Muharraq town, but they have become too small for the number of members and there are plans for the sale of the club buildings and the future construction of new and larger premises elsewhere in Muharraq. 575

Al-Ahli Club. This is the largest Arab club in Manama, it was founded in 1938 and to-day has a membership of 285, which figure is rapidly increasing. The club has much the same aims as the one described above. It has a library and reading room and from time to time members and visitors deliver talks and lectures. The Club has recently moved to its new premises on Daly Road in Quadabiya. The central hall of the club has a stage for theatricals and public lectures and it is proposed to build two tennis courts in the grounds of the club. The club also has an excellent football team which usually does well in inter-Bahrain and foreign matches.

Khalifah Eslah Club. The second of the two Muharraq clubs, the Khalifah Eslah Club, has 150 members. Formerly housed in a building in the centre of the town, at the time of writing the club is raising funds for a new building on the Muharraq Sea Road.

This club was also founded for cultural purposes and much of its activity is connected with intellectual pursuits. At monthly meetings members of the club deliver lectures on various topics and there is a committee which encourages such activities. The club itself is administered by an elected committee which holds fortnightly meetings at which matters of interest to the club are discussed and members' proposals considered. From time to time the club produces plays which are well attended by the general public. It does not, however, take part in any sports.

BAPCO Club. The membership of BAPCO Club, with the exception of some 80 outside members from Manama, amounts to 1100 European and American employees of BAPCO and 400 wives and 350 children, the latter two groups being honorary members. The Club with its manifold activities is organised by the Oil Company for the entertainment of its employees during their leisure hours. Among the sports played under the auspices of the Club are cricket, association football, golf, hockey, squash, and tennis, as well as rifle shooting, archery and riding. Some of these activities are organised by separate clubs but they are all dependent upon BAPCO for financial aid and are, therefore, part of the BAPCO Club. There is also in Awali an amateur dramatic society, a library and billiards rooms. 466 575

Every Thursday evening there is a dance at the club, once a month this is formal ; also in the winter there are old-time dances which are particularly well attended.

The Pakistan Club. As its name implies, the majority of the members of this club are Pakistanis, but its 200 members also include many other 575

575 nationalities. The Club does valuable service in providing entertainment for some of the Pakistanis in Bahrain, it organises various sports, including volley-ball, cricket, football and physical exercises as well as indoor games. Once or twice a month the Club holds Housey sessions which are well attended by members and visitors. Also very useful in Bahrain, where there is a shortage of public libraries, is this Club's library, which as well as being supplied with books is provided with the latest newspapers and magazines.

Bahrain Sports Club. This Club was founded in 1918 under the patronage of H.H. the Ruler of Bahrain and other local notables. Its aim is to provide recreational and social amenities, which include a library, for its 250 members, most of whom are Indian nationals.

The Club premises are situated in Quadibiya, on Belgrave Road, and include the main club buildings, two tennis courts and an indoor badminton court. There are also two table-tennis tables and facilities for chess, bridge, etc. The Club's major activity is cricket, in which it excels, having won the Championship Shield of the Bahrain Cricket Association for the three years 1950-52. Tennis and badminton tournaments are also held every year for cups donated by the Bahrain Petroleum Company and by other Bahrain firms. Once a month there is a tombola evening to which the general public is admitted.

The Club is managed by a committee of seven members who are elected every January.

The membership fee to the Club is *Rs*.3 per month, members also pay *Rs*.7 per month for the use of the tennis courts, *Rs*.3 per month for the use of the badminton court and a library deposit of *Rs*.5.

Gymkhana Club. This Club, which has been in existence for some years, is for the benefit of the British and American inhabitants of Manama, although there are also some members in Awali and Muharraq. The Club premises, attractively surrounded by gardens, are to the south of the Racecourse and include, in addition to the Club building itself, a swimming bath, tennis courts and a patio where dances are frequently held.

Applications for membership to the Club should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, the Gymkhana Club.

There are other clubs in Bahrain, The Ferdousi and Gulistan Clubs, the Aruba in Manama, the Nahada in Hedd and clubs in some of the villages, but these are not likely to be of interest to visitors to Bahrain as their activities are more specialised.

SPORTS

526 *Sailing.* Sailing is a pleasant relaxation which, in Bahrain, can be
575 enjoyed all the year round. The recently formed Royal Air Force Sailing Club is actively promoting interest in sailing and dinghy racing

among residents of Bahrain and is filling a long-felt want for an organ- 526
ised centre for the small boat enthusiast. The R.A.F. Club was started 575
in July 1951 mainly to provide a form of recreation for members of the R.A.F. stationed in Bahrain, but later it was found that many of the Britishers and Americans resident in Bahrain were interested in sailing so it was decided to admit fifty civilian members. In August 1952 the membership of the club numbered eighty.

The Club premises are open daily from noon to 8 p.m. except Fridays and Sundays when they open at 10 a.m. Races are held every week-end and there is a Club Day on the first Friday of each month. At the time of writing there are twelve sailing boats and numerous other craft at the Club, of the sailing boats, four are the property of the club, three loaned to it and the remainder are privately owned. There are also half-a-dozen dinghies, including four 14-foot "G.P. Dinghies" designed by Jack Holt—a class which it is planned to develop and also to encourage among private owner members. Helmsmanship is taught and tests must be passed before members are permitted to take out club boats. Sailing matches are arranged from time to time with the sailing club at Qatar.

The Club buildings are ideally situated in what used to be the B.O.A.C. Marine Airport. The premises are at the end of a short jetty which extends into the sea from a point of the shore of Manama in Quadabiya, and the areas protected from the full strength of the north-west and north winds by the mainland of Bahrain. The Khor Khaliya, the bay to the east of the Club, provides pleasant and safe water for races and the training of beginners. For qualified helmsmen who know these reef-ridden coastal waters there are many sailing excursions round the coast and to nearby islands.

The entrance fee to the R.A.F. Sailing Club for civilian members is 25 rupees with a monthly subscription of 10 rupees, the subscription for officers is *Rs*.5 and for airmen, *Rs*.3. Wives and families of members are included, paying no fees and having no voting rights.

Enquiries about membership of the Club, for which there is a long waiting list, should be made to the Hon. Secretary on forms supplied by him.

Fishing. "A STRIKE—Turn the boat !" ; a pause, and then 526
that triumphant warning scream from the reel which is music to all
fishermen—"He's on." In Bahrain "he" may be a 7-lb. "Chanad" 126
or a 40-lb Barracuda—they will both take the same 6-inch Wilson spoon or Stewart "wobbler."

The most popular method of fishing is Trolling, from any motor driven boat which can maintain a trolling speed of about 3-4 knots. A variety of rods are used—from light to heavy—and the humble hand-line is just as effective, although obviously not so much sport. Nickelled spoons, feather jigs and natural bait are the usual lures used for trolling. The best natural bait is a small gar-fish ("silts" in Arabic)

526 226 [136] about 6-in. to 9-in. long which trolls well because of its streamlined shape. The fish most commonly caught by trolling are listed hereunder; those marked with an asterisk have also been reported, but on rare occasions :—

Sea bass.
King Mackerel ("Chanad" or Indian seer).
Leer Fish.
Rock Cod.
Barracuda.
*"Sikkan" (English name unknown but weighs up to 60 lbs.).
*Sailfish.
*Shark (usually sand sharks up to 150 lbs.).
*Bonito.

Bottom fishing in the deeper water a mile or so off the coast, using crab, cuttlefish or large prawn as bait, yields Queen-fish, "Hamriyah" (English name unknown but similar to red snapper) and several kinds of rays, in addition to three or four of the above-listed species caught trolling. Many of these fish weigh 30 to 60 lbs. and give very good sport on a light sea-rod with a reel carrying about 250 yards of cutty hunk or nylon line with 18 or 24 lb. breaking strain. The American type 5-star drag reel is popular for trolling because by insulating the shock of the initial fierce strike, it enables lighter tackle to be used. Sailfish weighing about 55 lb. have been caught near the Black Buoy, the northern entrance marker to the Sitra channel, on at least two authenticated occasions. A game-fishing maxim says that "where there are sailfish, there are marlin" and, although not yet reported in local Bahrain waters, marlin have been seen as near as Umm Said on the east coast of the Qatar peninsular.

Bass (Ar. "Zbaiti"), "Shari" (12-in. long, drab colour), "Saafi" (about 24-in. long, white colour) and a colourful variety of small fish up to 5-6 lb. are caught fishing from the shore at many places around the coast. A trout rod or other light bait-casting rod with a 2½-oz. tip gives excellent sport and can be most exciting when, for instance, a 10 lb. sea bass is hooked and landed, as was done with such tackle in the 1952 season.

The spring and autumn are the best fishing seasons, although fish are sought and caught by the enthusiasts throughout the winter, except during the very cold spells. The hot summer months of July, August and September are the worst or fishing in Bahrain, the Bahrainis say that the fish go out to the deeper water to keep cool, in which they are both missed and envied by the local "Isaac Waltons," left ashore to prepare their tackle for the coming autumn season.

526 231 *Riding and Racing*. Bahrain offers excellent opportunities for riding, but it is only recently that these have been recognised by European and American residents in the Islands. The BAPCO Club has a stable of twelve horses at Awali and riding classes are held for children and adults. In Manama a number of Arab merchants keep horses for

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The Refinery. Photo : *Bahrain Petroleum Company.*

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Qasiri Pool. Photo : *Sir Charles Belgrave.*

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1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1958 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

A Qanat (Water Channel) *Photo : The Author.*

A roadside Mosque. *Photo : Sir Charles Belgrave.*

An Aerial view of Muharraq town. Photo : Bahrain Government.

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The Results of a Fishing Expedition.

Photo: Y. A. Shirawi.

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A Village Pool, North Sitra.

Photo: The Author.

Rifaa Ash-Sharqi.

Photo: The Author.

526

A Bahrain Football Team.

hacking as well as for racing and they are often willing to lend them 526 to those interested in riding. With the exception of a few horses owned by Europeans, the remainder in Bahrain are the property of H.H. The 231 Ruler, of the State Police and of other members of the Ruling Family. The keeping of horses in Bahrain is an expensive matter as the cost of fodder is high.

There are at the time of writing only two race meetings a year, these 526 are held at the Manama Racecourse on Jufair Road. The race meetings 542 take place in the spring and autumn, but it is hoped shortly to increase their number. The Races are run by a committee which receives the full support and patronage of the Ruler and there is a Totalisator under Government control. The races are very popular in Bahrain and not only is the Enclosure always packed with many hundreds of Arabs and Europeans but the whole length of the track is lined with onlookers who during the morning of the races come in buses, taxis and on foot to the Racecourse. The races vary in distance from four furlongs to one mile, some are handicaps and others are open. The Race Meetings of Bahrain are one of the social events of the year and people come from Dhahran and Qatar for the occasion. The brightly coloured dresses of the ladies, the equally colourful clothes of the Arabs and the more sombre get-up of the Englishmen are worthy of this Gulf Ascot !

Bathing. Around the shores of Bahrain are a number of excellent 526 beaches, particularly to the south of the island, away from the villages. 529 Unfortunately the coast of Bahrain is so shallow that it is often necessary to walk for a long way into the sea before deep water is reached. Swimming and picnicing is particularly pleasant at Ras al-Barr and along the west coast of Bahrain below Zellaq. There is no real danger from swimming in the sea, sharks are very rarely seen and it is only the occasional ray that should be treated with respect. Swimming shoes are, however, very necessary as the sharp coral stone in many places along the coast causes bad cuts which are liable to go septic. At Zellaq there is the BAPCO Plage which, in the summer, sees an attendance of over 50 a day and as many as 200-300 bathers at week-ends.

There are a number of places for fresh water bathing, the Pool at Adari is very pleasant but in the summer is inclined to be crowded. There are also pools at Ain Hakim, Sitra and elsewhere. At Awali there are two swimming baths and the Gymkhana Club also possesses a large bath situated in very attractive surroundings. In all the natural springs and in the baths which receive their water direct from artesian wells, the water has a temperature of about 83 degrees ; this remains the same in winter and in summer so that in the former the water seems warm, in the latter, cool.

Other Sports. In addition to these activities it is possible to play many other games in Bahrain, including tennis, golf, hockey, cricket, volley-ball, football, etc.

There are a number of public and private tennis courts in Bahrain, in Awali the courts of the BAPCO Club, and in Manama the Bahrain

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Sports Club, and the Gymkhana Club have courts and the Ahli Club is also building some. Tennis is often played at night, by the light of batteries of flood-lamps, and there are many tennis matches between Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. There are also cups and shields for Bahrain tournaments.

Bahrain has two golf courses, one in Manama, around the Racecourse, the other near Awali. The latter belongs to the BAPCO Club and is situated in the desert between Awali and Sitra. As with other sports, golf teams from Bahrain play matches with teams from other parts of the Persian Gulf, but this is a sport that is confined to Europeans and Americans, the Arabs not yet having taken it up.

Football is one of the most popular sports in Bahrain, both with Arabs and Europeans, and has been played since the late 'twenties although there was no general organisation for its encouragement. In 1952, however, the Bahrain Football Association was formed and was supported by the Ahli Club's team, the Muharraq Sports team and the teams of the Gulistan Club, the Ferdousi Club, the R.A.F., the International Aeradio Company and the Bahrain Petroleum Company. It is the eventual aim of the Association to build a sports stadium in Bahrain, but till this object can be achieved, the Association does what it can to encourage sporting spirit in Bahrain and to organize matches and tournaments.

The other games mentioned above are also played, but on a smaller scale than the ones already described in detail. There is no doubt, however, that with the cinemas, with the clubs and with the opportunity of participation in the many sports played in Bahrain there are many ways of spending one's leisure hours and enjoying one's stay in Bahrain.

CHAPTER II

GARDENING IN BAHRAIN

247 Gardening in Bahrain often seems to be a frustrating and disappointing hobby, but in time and with perseverance satisfactory results can be obtained and it is possible in the cold season to have a garden full of colour and flowers. The soil is thin and salty, the water is somewhat brackish and the strong north wind which blows in the winter is apt to play havoc with young seedlings. All gardens are irrigated as the rainfall is very small. Rain, when it does fall, often does more harm than good, it splashes the salty surface soil on to the stems of plants, shrubs and sometimes trees which causes small plants to die and often damages trees and shrubs. It is to prevent this damage that gardeners irrigate the ground immediately after rain, a labour which appears rather superfluous to people who do not appreciate the reason.

Speaking generally most of the hardy annuals can be grown without much difficulty, some perennials succeed but as they invariably die in the summer only those which flower in the first year should be attempted. Seeds are apt to behave capriciously in Bahrain; one year a certain species will grow well, producing masses of flowers, next year the same seed, sown under identical conditions, will fail to germinate or will grow a few inches and then wither away. The following annuals are the most reliable and most easily grown from seed : Ageratum, Allysum, Annual Chrysanthemums, Balsam, Calendula, Coreopsis, Gillardia, Hollyhock, Linum, Marigold, Nasturtiums, Nicotiana, Sunflower, Stocks, Sweet Sultans, Virginia Stock, Wallflower (annual).

Bulbs do fairly well the first year but if left in the ground they perish and if lifted and stored they are apt to rot. The following have been grown with some success : Anemone, Dahlias, Cannas, Gladiolus, Iris, Jonquils, Ranunculus, Tuberous, various lilies including Spider Lilies, Amaryllis and Arum.

The following annuals can be grown, often successfully, but they require care and mature soil : Anchusa, Antirrhinum, Carnations (which sometimes survive the summer), Cornflower, Cosmos, Coleus, Candytuft, Cineraria, Dahlia, Dianthus, Gypsophila, Kochia, Larkspur, Mignonette, Petunia, Phlox, Pansy, Statice, Salvia, Verbena, Zinnia. Certain species, when once established, will seed themselves every year to such an extent that they become a nuisance, these include Larkspur, Petunia, Ageratum, Nicotiana, Coreopsis, Sunflowers and Hollyhocks. The method of planting seeds in pots or boxes is rarely successful in Bahrain, owing to the salt in the ground and in the water the insides of boxes and pots are liable to become coated with salt which eventually kills the seedlings; in the open ground better results are obtained. Seeds can be sown from the beginning of October until as late as January. Local gardeners take little interest in flowers and are not accustomed to deal with flower seeds, so to get good results it is almost essential to sow the seeds and transplant seedlings oneself. Seed beds should be watered from a can during the first few days, locally made watering cans can be obtained in the bazaar. The rush of water which gardeners release over newly sown seeds usually carries away most of the seeds the first time that the seed bed is irrigated.

There are few if any indigenous flowers in Bahrain. Flower gardens did not exist before the development of artesian wells and certain plants, shrubs and trees which now appear to be growing wild were introduced from India or from Iraq during the last 27 years ; under this heading come Gaillardias, Oleanders, the Mesquite bean tree and many others. Almost all the flowering shrubs, trees and creepers were originally brought from the Municipal gardens in Karachi; these include Hibiscus, Tecoma, Duranta, Bougainvillea, Buddleia, Jatroba, Frangipani, Antigonon, Cassia, Lantana, Crotons, Achania, Indian Lilac, Datura, Myrtle, Ponciana (several types), Asparagus, Anchania, Bauhinia, Millingtonia, Cordia.

351 Several types of local grass, if cultivated, can be used for lawns. The best method of planting a lawn is by "dubbing in" small clumps of grass about six inches apart from each other. In two or three months the grass will cover the ground, It requires liberal watering especially during the summer, in the winter time it lies dormant. After three or four years lawns are apt to become thin and patchy, the grass should then be dug up and a new lawn laid down. The best kind of grass for lawns is "Nejma" which means a star, so called owing to the star shaped seed pod which it produces and "Murani," both can be obtained easily from any cultivated ground.

244 137 Most European vegetables can be grown in Bahrain and if planted in October quite a small garden should provide vegetables for a household from December until the beginning of June. Gardeners, if left to their own devices, are apt to use old seed which they have collected from previous crops; this almost always results in failure. The following are the most easily grown vegetables, Beetroot, Cabbage, family Carrot, Celery, Leek, Lettuce, Onion, Parsley, Radish, Spinach, Turnip. Peas and Beans do not seem to thrive in Bahrain. Tomatoes are grown extensively in the country and can be bought cheaply in the bazaar, so unless one has plenty of space it is hardly worth cultivating them. They ripen in Bahrain before they ripen in Iraq and at the beginning of the season they are exported from Bahrain to Basra.

Asparagus, Artichoke (Jerusalem) and Brussel sprouts have been grown from seed with rather uncertain results. Sweet Basil (Mashmoom) and Dill are herbs which are found in almost every garden, Mint grows well and retains its perennial habit but most of the other English herbs are not successful.

In the summer only local and somewhat uninspiring vegetables are obtainable, the best of these are Aubergine, Cucumber, Ladies Fingers, Pumpkin, Marrow and Sweet Potatoes.

One of the problems in Bahrain is how to obtain sufficient fertiliser. Before so many people took an interest in gardening cow manure could be obtained by anyone who sent a cart to remove it from the owner's shed. Today it is a marketable commodity and has to be paid for.

247 In spite of all difficulties gardening in Bahrain is a popular hobby, not only among the Europeans but also among the Arabs.

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS

AIR FARES

509 The following air lines make scheduled stops at Bahrain :—

British Overseas Airways Ltd.
Gulf Aviation Ltd.,
Djibouti Airways,
Cyprus Airways,
Iraki Airways,
Middle East Airways,
T.A.I.

Bookings can be made in Bahrain on these air lines either through their Bahrain offices or through any of the various travel bureaux that function in Manama. It is also possible to charter aircraft from Gulf Aviation Ltd. at rates which can be ascertained from the Company or its agents. D.H. Doves, carrying 7 passengers, are used.

Below are given some of the current air fares to various world cities and to the other Persian Gulf towns :—

Bahrain to :	*Fare single* *Rs.*	*return* *Rs.*	*Bahrain to* :	*Fare single* *Rs.*	*return* *Rs.*
Amsterdam	1547	2475	Doha	65	130
Bombay	680	1224	Karachi	547	985
Brussels	1494	2475	Kuwait	147	265
Cairo	627	1129	London	1547	2475
Colombo	907	1633	New York*	3428	5861
Damascus	534	962	Paris	1547	2475
Delhi	707	1273	Rome	1240	2232
Dhahran	30	60	Sharjah	150	280

**Off season return fare New York* Rs.5380.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The telecommunication system of the islands is owned and operated by Cable and Wireless Ltd., who maintain an automatic telephone system within Bahrain itself and also a radio-telephone system with other countries. 206 207

The following are representative cable rates :—

Telegraph Rates (per word).

Country.	Ordinary (*Full Rate*) *Rs.*	*As.*	Letter telegram (*Min. charge for* 22 *words*) *Rs.*	*As.*	*Each additional word.* *Rs.*	*As.*
Australia	2	13	30	15	1	6½
Canada	1	10	17	14	0	13
Egypt (1 and 3 regions)	1	13	19	15	0	14½
Egypt (region 2)	1	14	20	10	0	15
France	1	1	11	11	0	8½
Great Britain	1	1	11	11	0	8½
Holland	1	1	11	11	0	8½
India	0	13	8	15	0	6½
Irak	0	10	6	14	0	5
Italy	1	1	11	11	0	8½
Pakistan	0	12	8	4	0	6
U.S.A. :						
New York City	1	6	15	2	0	11
Alaska	1	14	20	10	0	15
All other places	1	8	16	8	0	12

The following are radio-telephone charges, for three minute calls :—

		Rs.	*As.*
(*a*)	Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Eire	40	0
(*b*)	France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg	43	15
(*c*)	Denmark, Germany and Switzerland	48	1
(*d*)	Norway and Sweden	49	15
(*e*)	United States of America and Canada	50	0

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

439 There is usually little difficulty in importing goods into Bahrain, except the following, which are not allowed :—

656 (a) Arms and Ammunition,

651 (b) Alcoholic and intoxicating liquors (except under licence).

(c) Cultured, bleached or tinted pearls and undrilled pearls produced outside the Persian Gulf,

(d) Obscene, indecent or seditious literature or pictures,

(e) Dogs, except with special permission of the Director of Customs which will only be granted in the case of dogs accompanied by a veterinary surgeon's certificate of innoculation against rabies.

(f) Counterfeit coins,

(g) Opium and its allied products and cocaine and its allied products.

Books and printed matter, gold and silver bullion and coinage, samples, undrilled Persian Gulf pearls, implements and tools of trade for the use of the traveller are exempt from customs duties. For those arriving for the first time in Bahrain to take up residence, household effects, new clothing, silver and plate are also exempt from duties.

[276] All travellers may bring into the country not more than 100 cigarettes, 50 cigars or ½ pound of tobacco, the containers of which must have been opened.

651 All other goods are liable to a customs duty. The duty on tobacco and liquor is 15%, luxuries pay 10% and necessities, 5%, but prospective travellers should not depend upon this as a hard and fast rule but are advised to ascertain the rates for each article. The Bahrain Government published a Customs Ordinance in 1950 in the form of a booklet, price Rs.2, which is obtainable from the Director of Customs, Manama, Bahrain.

LANGUAGES

191 The official language of Bahrain is Arabic, but some English is spoken in most parts of the State; it is usually possible in cases of difficulty to find an English-speaking Arab

On the other hand the Arabs much appreciate foreigners who take the trouble to learn even the rudiments of their language, which, it must be admitted, is very difficult. For this purpose possibly the best book in print is Van Ess's *Spoken Arabic of Irak*. There are, of course, many other excellent books on Arabic, but for conversational purposes the one above approaches nearest to the particular brand of Arabic spoken in Bahrain.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

486 All intending visitors to Bahrain are required to have passports endorsed for Bahrain, and in addition they should apply for an entry

visa either directly to the Bahrain Government or to the nearest British Consulate which will, after reference to the Bahrain Government, accept or reject the application on the latter's behalf. Passengers arriving in Bahrain without visas are likely to find themselves on the next plane outward bound. 486

Travellers from Bahrain who require visas for other countries must apply for them to H.B.M.'s Political Agency. In some cases the Agency is able to issue these visas on behalf of the foreign countries, but in the case of others it will be found necessary to apply for visas directly to the nearest consulate of the country concerned. H.B.M's Political Agency are in a position to inform prospective travellers about the latest regulations on this subject.

TAXES

There is no income tax in Bahrain, but for owners of houses and other premises within the Municipal areas of Manama, Muharraq, Hedd and Rifaa there is a small Municipal tax. 651

WATER AND ELECTRICITY

Within the Municipal area of Manama both water and electricity is provided by the State. 312 377

Within the Municipal area of Muharraq electricity only is provided by the State. 655

Rates for these amenities are as follows :—

Electricity.	*Water.*
First 50 units per month, 4 *annas* per unit.	1,000 gallons *Rs.*1 *As.*14.
Next 200 units per month, 3 *annas* per unit.	Meter rent, 8 annas per month.
Over 250 units per month, 2 *annas* per unit.	Minimum charge, *Rs.*1 *As.*14 per month.
Meter rent 8 *annas* per month.	
Minimum charge *Rs.*1 or 4 units per month.	

CURRENCY

Local currency in use in Bahrain at the time of writing is the Indian Rupee, worth, at the current rate of exchange, 1/6d. 436

Coinage is as follows :—

12 pice make 1 anna.
4 pies make 1 anna.
16 annas make 1 rupee.

The following coins and notes are in circulation :—

1 pice (1/12 anna)	copper	1 rupee	nickel and note
1 pie (¼ anna)	copper	2 rupees	note
1 anna	nickel and brass	5 rupees	note
2 annas	nickel and brass	10 rupees	note
4 annas	nickel	100 rupees	note
8 annas	nickel		

TRAFFIC

494 363 Traffic regulations in Bahrain are much the same as those in force in England and the United States; there is a left hand rule of the road and the speed limit in built up areas is 20 m.p.h. Special care should be taken when driving through towns and villages in Bahrain for in common with other parts of the Arab world pedestrians consider the roads as well as the pavements as their property and behave accordingly. Donkey and cycle riders should also be treated with caution for they are apt to be rather reckless. In case of accidents the Bahrain State Police must be notified immediately, failure to do so is likely to involve the drivers in unnecessary trouble.

To drive in Bahrain it is necessary to hold a valid Bahrain driving licence. These are obtainable at the Traffic Department, Bahrain Police Fort, Manama, at a cost of Rs. 5 p.a. Holders of valid licences of countries adhering to the International Traffic Convention, which include England, the U.S.A. and France and most other countries, will be granted a Bahrain licence on production of their own one. In other cases, drivers are required to take out provisional licences, and after a period of one month may apply at the Traffic Office for a driving test. The usual regulations concerning passengers apply to learner drivers.

494 All owners of cars and motor cycles in Bahrain are required to register them annually or semi-annually at the Traffic Office. The fee for a car is Rs. 50 per annum, for motor cycles Rs. 12—8 per annum, both fees can be paid in one or two instalments. Failure to register or re-register cars or motor cycles is liable to involve their owners in pecuniary loss.

For further information about Bahrain traffic laws, car owners are advised to contact the Traffic Office, Bahrain Police Fort, Manama, or phone Manama 334.

BANKS

453 There are at present two banks in Bahrain :

The British Bank of the Middle East, Prior Road, Manama ;
The Eastern Bank, Government Road, Manama.

These banks provide the usual facilities and arrange for such matters as foreign currency and the transference of drafts. In addition, there are in Manama and Muharraq a number of money changers who deal in most of the commoner forms of currency and who are willing to change money. Most shops will also oblige in this matter, particularly if offered dollars, but care should be taken that a reasonable rate of exchange is given.

LIQUOR

273 Bahrain is a Moslem country and is therefore "dry," but non-Moslem residents have been granted the privilege of being permitted

to buy liquor for their own use. In Awali liquor is sold through the medium of BAPCO, while residents in Manama must apply for a permit to buy liquor from H.B.M.'s Political Agent. 273

It is a serious offence in Bahrain for a Moslem to be found in possession of liquor, or "under the influence" and it is also illegal for non-Moslems in possession of liquor to give or sell it to Moslems.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

743 There are in Bahrain a number of private and public hospitals, as well as dentists, doctors and chemists.

657 For the benefit of the people of Bahrain the State Department of Health maintains a number of medical institutions in various parts of Bahrain. At the western end of Manama is the Naim Hospital for men and women, containing both public and private wards and equipped to deal with all emergencies. This hospital is used by the foreign community, except those employed by BAPCO, as well as by the people of the country. Also in Manama there are isolation hospitals, a mental hospital, a T.B. Sanatorium and the Office of Public Health. There are also State Hospitals in Muharraq and Hedd and dispensaries in the three towns and various villages.

For the use of its employees, both Bahraini and foreign, BAPCO has two hospitals in Awali.

[797] The oldest hospital in Bahrain is that run by the mission of the Dutch Reformed Church of America in Shaikh Isa Road, Manama. This hospital contains both public and private wards. There are also several dentists and doctors practising privately in Manama.

RATES OF POSTAGE

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LETTERS	*Rs.*	*As.*
INLAND : Not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	1½
For each additional oz.	0	1
FOREIGN :		
Seamail :		
Kuwait, Dubai and Muscat, not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	1½
For each additional oz.	0	1
Great Britain and Eire, British Empire and territories under British Mandate, U.S.A. and Egypt, not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	2½
For each additional oz.	0	1
All other countries, not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	4
For each additional oz.	0	2½
Airmail :		
Europe, per half oz. or fraction thereof	0	6
Australia, New Zealand, per half oz. or fraction thereof ..	0	12
Canada, U.S.A., per half oz. or fraction thereof ..	1	0
India, per half oz. or fraction thereof	0	6
Saudi Arabia, Irak, Cyprus, Dubai, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Syria and Jordan, per half oz. or part thereof	0	3½

205 For those interested in sending food parcels to friends or relatives in England the following facts may be of interest. Not more than one parcel may be sent at any one time to one consignee in England. The total weight of the food parcel may not exceed 18 pounds, and no more than four pounds of any one commodity can be sent. There are no restrictions at present in force regarding the export of foodstuffs from Bahrain.

There are three post offices in Bahrain; one on Prior Road, Manama, a second on Sea Road, Muharraq and a third at Awali.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

527 The following are public holidays in Bahrain :

Every Friday, this is the Moslem sabbath.

New Years Day.

Eid Ramadan, a three days holiday at the end of the month of fasting, in 1953 this feast will fall on the 13th, 14th and 15th June.

Eid al-Hajj, a three days holiday on the 10th 11th and 12th of the Arabic month of Dhul Hajj at the conclusion of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. In 1953 this feast will fall on the 10th, 11th and 12th August.

Ashura, a two days holiday, but not a feast; these days, the 9th and 10th Muharram are when the Shia mourn the death of Hussein at Kerbela. In 1953 this holiday will take place on the 18th and 19th September.

The Prophet's Birthday, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. In 1953 this feast will take place on 19th November.

Christmas Day.

The dates of Moslem feast days and holidays are based on the Islamic lunar calendar, and consequently *move back ten days each year and eleven days in leap years,*

CALENDAR

805 The official calendar in Bahrain is the Moslem calendar and as stated above, Moslem holidays are based on it. The Moslem months are as follows :

Muharram
Safar
Rabia al-Awal
Rabia ath-Thani
Jamadi al-Awal
Jamadi ath-Thani
Rajab
Shaban
Ramadan
Shawal
Dhul Qada
Dhul Hajj

The Islamic calendar dates from 622 A.D., the year in which the Hijra took place.

The following are the first days of the next ten Hijra years : 805

1372—September 21st, 1952
1373—September 10th, 1953.
1374—August 30th, 1954.
1375—August 20th, 1955.
1376—August 8th 1956.
1377—July 29th, 1957.
1378—July 18th, 1958.
1379—July 7th, 1959.
1380—June 26th, 1960.
1381—June 15th, 1961.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

In addition to the standard weights and measures, the following are in use in Bahrain : 804

Weight.

39 tolas = 1 ratl (1 pound)
4 ratls = 1 rub'a

56 ratls = 1 maund.
14 rub'as = 1 maund.

Length.

12 busas (inch) = 1 qadm (foot)
3 aqdam = 1 waar (yard)

SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Date.	*Sunrise.*	*Sunset.*	*Date.*	*Sunrise.*	*Sunset.*
1st Jan.	7.25 a.m.	5.58 p.m.	1st July	5.49 a.m.	7.34 p.m.
1st Feb.	7.44 a.m.	6.20 p.m.	1st Aug.	6.03 a.m.	7.26 p.m.
1st Mar.	7.02 a.m.	6.40 p.m.	1st Sep.	6.18 a.m.	6.57 p.m.
1st April	6.31 a.m.	6.55 p.m.	1st Oct.	6.30 a.m.	6.25 p.m.
1st May	6.02 a.m.	7.09 p.m.	1st Nov.	6.47 a.m.	5.56 p.m.
1st June	5.41 a.m.	7.27 p.m.	1st Dec.	7.08 a.m.	5.45 p.m.

CHURCHES

At the time of writing there are three churches in Bahrain, the Roman Catholic Church on Shaikh Isa Road, Manama, where there is also an English speaking school, and the Dutch Reformed Church of America, at the junction of Shaikh Isa Road and Shaikh Abdulla Road. 795 797

There is also in Bahrain an Anglican Chaplain and an Anglican Church on a plot of ground to the east of the Police Fort donated by the Ruler of Bahrain.

There is a church building in Awali which is used for services by various denominations.

NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKS

There are no English language newspapers published in Bahrain with the exception of a fortnightly duplicated magazine published by and for the English speaking employees of BAPCO. There are, however, four Arabic publications. The *Government Gazette*, the official publication of the Bahrain Government in which official notices, laws and reports are found, *Sawt al-Bahrain*, a monthly with articles of literary, cultural and religious interest, articles on Bahrain, poetry and a gossip column, *al-Khamila*, a weekly mainly concerned with the doings of the entertainment world in Egypt and containing light articles, jokes and poems and *al-Qafila*, the newest publication. 204

204 In addition to the English language papers published in Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt, many English and American papers have airmail editions, which take a very short time in reaching Bahrain. Other papers and magazines are on sale in the Manama shops, both American and English, but they take rather longer to arrive. It is possible to receive the *Irak Times* by air, and also numerous Arabic papers from Egypt and Lebanon.

217 There is a public library in Bahrain, the Library of the Education Department, in Shaikh Abdulla Road, which contains Arabic and English books and magazines. There is a subscription library of English fiction and non-fiction at the Residency, Jufair and also libraries in many of the clubs. The largest library in Bahrain is that of the Bapco Club. Some Manama shops have large selections of books and one of them specialises in new books on Middle Eastern topics and stocks them soon after their publication.

CLOTHING (EUROPEAN)

291 Men in the summer wear shirts and slacks or shorts and light tropical suits on formal occasions. In the evening white opened-necked and short sleeved shirts and white trousers are usual, with black shoes and socks and a black cummerbund at more formal affairs. Aertex or similar day shirts are the most suitable form of wear and cellular vests are useful, not for warmth but to absorb sweat. All forms of clothing for summer wear in Bahrain can be bought in Manama, both ready made and tailored.

In cold weather ordinary tweed suits are worn, or flannel trousers and sports coats and dinner jackets in the evening. It is cold enough for pullovers and overcoats, especially after sunset.

Washing frocks, preferably cotton, are the best wear for women in the very hot weather, as linen or silk are unsuitable when the temperature and humidity are high. Light frocks are usually worn from April till December. Hats are worn on rare occasions. Cotton dress materials can be obtained locally as well as ready made English and American frocks.

In the cold season women require the type of clothing which is worn in England in April and May, and in the Fall in the States. In addition, the cold winter winds call for a really warm coat. As with summer clothes, those needed in the winter can be made in Manama from locally purchased material.

HOTELS

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366 There are only two hotels in Bahrain attaining European standards, the B.O.A.C. Guest House and the Bahrain Hotel. The former is primarily built for the benefit of transit passengers and it is often difficult for visitors to Bahrain who expect to stay for some time to get a room there. The Bahrain Hotel, which is at the west end of Prior Road, offers good food and is in fact the only alternative to the B.O.A.C. Guest House. There are a number of small local hotels which are not in the same class as these two.

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/For implicit information concerning the effect of contact with the West, in the form of Portugese mariners, the British Empire and the oil industry,/ see category 116, complete text./

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The sections of the map facing page 42 are designated according to the plan below:

a	b	c	d	e
f	g	h	i	j

1: Belgrave MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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The sections of the map facing page 78 are designated according to the plan below:

a	b
c	d
e	f
g	h
i	j
k	l